



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

# Annual Report 2023

**REGIONAL PROGRAMME  
FOR AFRICA**

## Acknowledgement

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Matthias Naab, Director of UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA), for his leadership, guidance and unwavering support in the development of this Annual Report.

The Annual Report 2023 was produced under the leadership of Jide Okeke, Coordinator of the Regional Programme for Africa. We are grateful for the invaluable technical insights provided by Sophia Abra, Fatma Ahmed, Lisa Bachir, Laetitia Pougdiba Ouoba, Adja Sy, Ayda Labassi and Morning John Lokule.

Contributions from all RSCA teams were instrumental, reflecting the significant inputs from their regional projects and initiatives.

Special thanks to Natalia Voronova and Jacqueline Cochrane for their meticulous support in compiling inputs and editing the report.

We extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to everyone involved for their remarkable efforts in bringing this report to fruition.

## About UNDP

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet. 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.

## About UNDP Regional Programme for Africa





The Regional Programme for Africa is a flagship UNDP programme that responds to challenges and opportunities facing the African continent and to the priorities and aspirations of Africa as articulated by the African Union and other regional organs.

It is anchored in the African Union's Agenda 2063, UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and the Regional Bureau for Africa's Strategic Offer. It coalesces UNDP's regional interventions under four critical priorities articulated to resonate with the 2030 Agenda in this Decade of Action. Learn more: <https://www.undp.org/africa/regional-programme-africa>

## Copyright 2023

© 400 Communications Ltd. skillfully executed the design, layout and production.

# Table of contents

Acronyms	03
Key quantitative achievements:	04
<b>01 Foreword</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>02 Flagship initiatives</b>	<b>10</b>
The Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions	11
African Young Women Leaders Fellowship Programme	12
Africa Borderlands Centre	13
Supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area	13
Africa Election Fund	14
timbuktoo: Support towards the establishment of the pan-African start-up ecosystem	15
Climate Ambition Raising Through Article 6	15
<b>03 Executive summary</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>04 Results and activities of 2023</b>	<b>22</b>
 <b>People</b>	<b>24</b>
Knowledge and data-driven development	25
Enhancing accountability and collaboration	26
Empowering communities through capacity building	26
 <b>Prosperity</b>	<b>28</b>
Private sector development support	28
Promoting SDG Financing	30
Fostering innovation and digitalization	32
Enhancing collaborations to use evidence and knowledge	32
 <b>Planet</b>	<b>34</b>
Promoting data and evidence-based approaches	34
Promoting coherent policies and programmes	35
Promoting awareness and collaboration	36
 <b>Peace</b>	<b>38</b>
Creating knowledge and conducive conditions	39
Promoting awareness and collaboration	39
Empowering communities and building capacities	40
Empowering strategic thinking and planning	41
Promoting youth involvement and human rights	43
Promoting synchronicity within the development ecosystem	43
Integrating best practices and strengthening governance	44

---

<b>05 Partnerships</b>	<b>45</b>
Strategic partnerships	47
<b>06 Gender mainstreaming</b>	<b>48</b>
Gender mainstreaming and inclusion	49
Empowerment and economic opportunities	50
<b>07 Intra-project collaborations</b>	<b>51</b>
Integrated approaches to knowledge management	52
Collaborations towards capacity building	53
Programmatic and policy-enriching synergies	53
Synergies for the AfCFTA	54
<b>08 Digital solutions and innovations</b>	<b>55</b>
Digital data	56
Knowledge sharing and capacity building	57
Evidence-based interventions	58
<b>09 Meet our people</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Annex 1. List of partners</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Annex 2. Financial reporting</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Annex 3. 2023 Risk matrix</b>	<b>72</b>

---



# Acronyms

<b>ABC</b>	Africa Borderlands Centre	<b>MSME</b>	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
<b>AEF</b>	Africa Election Fund	<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution
<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area	<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank	<b>PERIPERI U</b>	Partners Enhancing Resilience of People Exposed to Risks
<b>AFSIT</b>	Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions	<b>PVE</b>	Preventing Violent Extremism
<b>AfYWL</b>	African Young Women Leaders	<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator Office
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence	<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community
<b>AMHEWAS</b>	Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System	<b>RM</b>	Regional Mechanism
<b>ASFH</b>	Africa Sustainable Finance Hub	<b>RP</b>	UNDP Regional Programme for Africa
<b>AU</b>	African Union	<b>RPYES</b>	UNDP Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission	<b>RSCA</b>	Regional Service Centre for Africa
<b>B2B</b>	business-to-business	<b>RS-SSR</b>	Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience
<b>CARTA</b>	Climate Ambition Raising Through Article 6	<b>RSF</b>	Regional Stabilization Facility
<b>CO</b>	Country Office	<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>SART</b>	Strategy, Analysis and Research Team
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community	<b>SEA</b>	Swedish Energy Agency
<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
<b>ECOSOCC</b>	Economic, Social and Cultural Council	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States	<b>UCG</b>	Unconstitutional Change of Government
<b>ELR</b>	Executive Leadership Retreat	<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>EMB</b>	Electoral Management Body	<b>UNDCO</b>	UN Development Coordination Office
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>UNDESA</b>	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>GFFO</b>	German Federal Foreign Office	<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>IFI</b>	International Financial Institution	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	<b>UNISS</b>	United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel
<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financing Frameworks	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>YPS</b>	Youth, Peace and Security
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration		
<b>ITMO</b>	Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes		
<b>ICGLR</b>	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region		
<b>MINUSMA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali		

# Key quantitative achievements:

#SMEs supported

**52,949**



#Direct beneficiaries

**277,208**



of which

Women direct beneficiaries:

**55,700**

Youth<sup>1</sup> direct beneficiaries:

**123,611**

#Indirect beneficiaries

**6,851,047<sup>2</sup>**



of which

**3,924,580**

Women

**2,969,389**

Youth



<sup>1</sup> UNDP uses the UN definition of 'youth' as persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

<sup>2</sup> The significant discrepancy in the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries could be attributed to the nature of the activities implemented. Many of these activities, such as podcasts and radio programmes, were designed to reach a large public audience. While direct beneficiaries are those who participated in programme-specific activities, indirect beneficiaries include the larger public who gained from the information, awareness and educational content disseminated through activities.



Kapenguria, West-Pokot, Kenya. Credit: Temidayo Ibitoye

Knowledge products

**54**



Partners

**273**



Donors

**46**



**24**

projects

**15**

initiatives

**4**

new initiatives  
developed







# 01



# Foreword

## By Ahunna Eziakonwa UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa

Looking back over the past year at UNDP Regional Programme for Africa, we reflect on a time of growth and change, driven by our focus on peace, people, planet and prosperity. These themes are the core of what we do. Our mission is about making a tangible difference, and the stories that shaped our year show just that.

In 2023, Africa experienced significant developments across various fronts. The year was marked by several unconstitutional changes of government in the Sahel region (Niger) and Central Africa (Gabon), highlighting ongoing challenges to governance and stability. Yet efforts to strengthen democracy continued. Decisive elections and constitutional revisions occurred in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Liberia and Madagascar to renew democratic institutions and systems.

We also saw climate action gaining momentum, with increased commitments to sustainable practices and green energy. Youth and women empowerment initiatives flourished, with numerous programmes launched to enhance education, entrepreneurship and leadership opportunities. Collectively, these efforts contributed to a dynamic year marked by progress towards inclusive governance, environmental sustainability and the empowerment of marginalized groups.

We have seen remarkable achievements and transformations for many communities across the continent. Our efforts, from Chad to Guinea, Kenya to South Africa, have helped to bring peace and stability to conflict-affected areas, empowering people to rebuild their lives and futures with hope and dignity. Our programmes and our people don't just focus on themes, but work to change lives.



UNDP Regional Programme for Africa's flagship initiatives have played a central role in helping to achieve this:

- **Stabilization programmes** in the Lake Chad Basin, the Central Sahel's Liptako Gourma region and Mozambique have significantly contributed to stability and resilience in these conflict-affected areas, fostering peace and rebuilding communities.
- Through our partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), the **African Young Women Leaders (AfYWL) Fellowship Programme** has shaped and nurtured a new generation of leaders, increasing women's voices and choices on the continent.
- **The Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT)**, was created in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), to support complex political transitions in Africa by safeguarding development gains and fostering inclusivity.
- **The Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT)**, in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), continues to support complex political transitions in Africa by establishing tools for inclusivity and stability in governance.
- Our projects that support the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** have been instrumental in helping to integrate and expand the continent's economy, creating new trade and collaboration opportunities among African nations.
- The **Carbon Market Initiative** directly confronts climate change by promoting sustainable practices that reduce carbon emissions and safeguard the environment.
- Our strong commitment to promoting the **Blue Economy** is helping to unlock the potential of our oceans and other water resources, driving sustainable development and economic growth in coastal and island communities.

Overall, we have created contexts where sustainable development thrives while also preserving our planet's resources for future generations. The Regional Programme's impact speaks for itself in stories of resilience and empowerment — from the shores of Mozambique to the streets of Dakar. We supported innovative solutions that drive economic growth, create jobs and foster prosperity. By investing in people, we unlocked potential and nurtured leaders who now drive positive change in their communities.

Our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains relentless. We have developed and championed initiatives that address the intertwined challenges of our time, from gender equity to climate change and good governance to poverty alleviation. Our North Star is focused on inclusive development, leaving no one behind.

The achievements of 2023 were made possible with the support of our partners, team members and volunteers, whose commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in driving transformative change, fostering peace and empowering communities across Africa.

Empowered by past accomplishments and inspired by what lies ahead, our collective determination is our greatest strength.

This annual report, a testament to our shared achievements and a blueprint for the road ahead, reminds us of what can be accomplished when we come together with a common purpose and an unyielding commitment to making a difference.

Thank you for being part of the journey.

---

**“Empowered by past accomplishments and inspired by what lies ahead, our collective determination is our greatest strength”.**

# 02





# Flagship initiatives

## The Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions

### What is it?

The Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT) is a collaborative initiative that provides comprehensive programmatic support to African countries undergoing complex political transitions, particularly those emerging from, experiencing, or at risk of unconstitutional changes of government (UCG).

### How and why was it created?

The AFSIT concept stems from a call to action made by the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government during the 16<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, held on 28 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. In this session, leaders emphasized zero tolerance for UCG, urging collective efforts to develop a robust response mechanism, deepen democracy and ensure security across the continent. Between 2020 and 2022, Africa saw a surge in military coups d'états, with eight occurring in this period. This marked a stark increase from previous decades.

UCG events present critical moments to bolster governance, promote democracy and safeguard development. However, harnessing these opportunities requires an agile, demand-driven mechanism. In response, the African Union Commission (AUC) and UNDP established AFSIT. Launched on 15 July 2023, during the AU mid-year summit in Nairobi, AFSIT focuses on preventing and responding to military coups and UCG.

### What is the aim and objective?

AFSIT supports the development of credible, inclusive and legitimate transition roadmaps, mechanisms and institutions to restore constitutional rule, democracy and stability. The key objective of AFSIT is to strengthen governance and uphold development gains during complex political transitions. The initiative leverages the regional leadership of the AU and the regional economic communities (RECs), as well as UNDP's country-level presence as a premier development agency of the United Nations system. This approach prioritizes accountable and responsive governance in transition processes, which aligns with UNDP mandate to stay and deliver where such transitions are taking place.

---

**“AFSIT is a practical and pragmatic mechanism that is geared towards boosting the capacity of all actors in the democratic governance space.”**

**Ambassador Bankole Adeoye,  
AU Commissioner for Political Affairs,  
Peace and Security**



## African Young Women Leaders Fellowship Programme

### What is it?

Established in 2019, the (AfYWL) Fellowship Programme is a groundbreaking initiative created through a partnership between the AUC and UNDP. The programme was founded on a shared commitment to advance gender equality by investing in the leadership potential of young African women, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and those of the AU's Agenda 2063.

### How and why was it created?

In a continent rich with potential, young African women encounter unique challenges and opportunities. The AfYWL Fellowship Programme addresses the need for strong, capable women leaders who can represent their communities, countries and the continent on the global stage. By emphasizing resilience, competence, passion and purpose, the programme empowers the fellows to drive change, even in the face of significant challenges. As they forge their paths, they represent the future of Africa's leadership, dedicated to creating a more inclusive and equitable world.

### What is the aim and objective?

The AfYWL Fellowship Programme aims to cultivate a new generation of young African women leaders who can effectively contribute to development programmes both within Africa and globally.

The programme's core objectives are structured around three main pillars:

1. **Equipping Leaders:** The programme equips outstanding young African women with the leadership skills and experience needed to advance the SDGs and make significant contributions to decision-making processes in public, private and multilateral institutions, both at home and abroad.
2. **Enhancing organizational efficiency:** By creating a diverse pool of talent, the programme enhances UNDP's organizational efficiency, contributing to the development of more responsive and effective policies and programmes.
3. **Building a network of professionals:** The programme fosters a network of young African women professionals who promote innovative, sustainable and inclusive development through South-South exchanges. Fellows are deployed to UNDP offices globally, where they engage in one-year assignments, gaining invaluable experience and contributing to development initiatives.

Some of the programme's key achievements include:

- **First cohort (2019–2021):** Consisted of 21 fellows from 20 African countries, deployed to 20 UNDP offices globally.
- **Second cohort (2022–2023):** Included 38 fellows from 22 African countries, deployed to 26 UNDP locations across Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States.
- **Third cohort:** Comprises 36 fellows from 24 African countries, currently deployed to 25 UNDP country, regional and global offices.

The fellows' journeys — from their entry into the programme to their accomplishments after graduation — exemplify resilience, leadership and transformative impact. The programme remains committed to supporting and empowering young African women, ensuring their voices and leadership drive sustainable development across the continent and beyond.

## Africa Borderlands Centre

### What is it?

The Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC) was established in 2020. A specialized centre, it focuses on treating border regions as distinct economic and political zones with unique needs and rights. Since its implementation in January 2021, the ABC has become a thought leader, offering cutting-edge data, analysis and insight on critical borderland policy and programming issues. Serving as a hub for high-quality technical and policy advice, the ABC leverages evidence-based knowledge to design and deliver innovative programming that supports transformative change in borderlands.

### How and why was it created?

The establishment of the ABC was driven by the recognition that African borderlands face high levels of extreme poverty and are often underserved by national institutions — particularly in security, education and healthcare. These regions have been overlooked by traditional development approaches, which tend to focus on national development plans and neglect the unique challenges of borderlands and their connections beyond national boundaries. The ABC aims to address the lack of dedicated resources for the development of borderlands at the regional level.

### What is the objective?

The ABC was founded to improve the livelihoods of people in Africa's borderlands. It supports key stakeholders to effectively engage in borderland development, ensuring that no one is left behind in the achievement of Agendas 2030 and 2063. In its three years of existence, the ABC has made significant strides across 30 African countries. By harnessing data, knowledge and innovation, the ABC has built strong partnerships with local communities. This collaboration has led to best-practice programmatic solutions, attracting increased attention and support from governments and policymakers for borderland regions.

## Supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area

### What is it?

The African Continental Free Trade Area is a landmark initiative aimed at establishing a unified market for goods and services across Africa. Following its signing in March 2018, UNDP launched the project titled 'Promoting Inclusive Intra-African Trade through the AfCFTA to Accelerate Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development in Africa'. The project actively supports the implementation of the AfCFTA at national, regional and continental levels. It achieves this by providing direct assistance to countries, offering training and fostering engagement among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and advancing knowledge development. These efforts are crucial to ensuring that the AfCFTA's goals translate into tangible benefits, including among vulnerable countries and marginalized communities across Africa.

### How and why was it created?

In 2021, the AfCFTA Secretariat and UNDP signed a strategic partnership. The partnership was specifically aimed at promoting trade — both as a stimulus for Africa's socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and as a driver of sustainable development, particularly for women and youth in Africa. These priorities align with the common vision of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 for the continent. UNDP has the capacity to deliver an integrated and inclusive approach to private sector and trade programmes, leveraging its wide network of country offices and regional hubs. This gives it a comparative advantage in helping to advance Africa's integration agenda.

## What is the aim and objective?

Recognized as a key tool for advancing both the SDGs and the goals of Agenda 2063, trade collaboration in Africa aims to tackle systemic inequalities, promote value addition and create jobs. As intra-African trade grows, it becomes essential for stakeholders to navigate critical hurdles and requirements like SME export competitiveness, rules of origin, and technical/product safety standards. UNDP's support focuses on strengthening business competitiveness — including informal enterprises led by women and youth — to participate in AfCFTA markets. At the same time, UNDP works to enhance the capacity of national and regional institutions to unlock the potential of the AfCFTA.

UNDP also prioritizes support for creating an enabling policy environment that reduces the cost of intra-regional trade by removing various policy, legal and systemic barriers. This includes aligning national policy and regulatory systems with continental commitments to foster seamless trade across borders. Lastly, UNDP advocates for measures that support the free movement of persons, recognizing the associated benefits for the liberalization of goods, services and capital within the AfCFTA framework. This trade-mobility link is crucial for expanding safe migration pathways, lifting women and youth out of poverty and preventing irregular migration and forced displacement. Ultimately, it plays a key role in ensuring that AfCFTA benefits are inclusive and equitably distributed.

## Africa Election Fund

### What is it?

The Africa Election Fund (AEF) is a flagship UNDP programme that deploys electoral support to AU member states. It assists in organizing and managing elections, ensuring they are conducted fairly and credibly. This support can include providing technical expertise, resources, and logistical assistance to national electoral bodies, including training election officials and facilitating the use of technology and best practices. The AEF works to improve the overall quality and transparency of elections across Africa.

## How and why was it created?

The AEF was created on 25 January 2023 through a collaborative effort between the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and UNDP, to strengthen democracy in Africa through innovative, agile and timely support to electoral processes. The AUC, a key partner of the AEF, had been involved in regional electoral assistance initiatives from the inception phase. This partnership facilitated peer learning and the transfer of lessons across different countries and contexts in Africa. Establishing the AEF was driven by the need for agile operational capacity to support democratic gains and peace dividends early in electoral processes. Recognizing the formidable challenges faced by countries in Africa and democracies worldwide — including conflict, crises of confidence between institutions and citizens, and economic challenges — the AEF was created to provide more responsive and nimble actions at the regional level.

## What is the aim and objective?

The AEF aims to ensure elections are conducted in an inclusive, transparent and credible manner, thereby helping to rebuild trust and contribute to peace and democracy. In response to the evolving electoral context across AU member states, the AEF supports strategic and crisis communications by electoral management bodies (EMBs). The inception phase of the AEF started in July 2023, implemented by UNDP and sponsored by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). It is bringing new insights into the potential of regional electoral assistance at the intersection of country support and global initiatives.

## **timbuktoo: Support towards the establishment of the pan-African start-up ecosystem**

### **What is it?**

timbuktoo is a pan-African initiative designed to leverage Africa's rapidly growing startup scene and empower young entrepreneurs. It aims to nurture and scale tech-enabled startups, in particular, across the continent, and works to unlock their role in driving economic growth and social impact.

### **How and why was it created?**

Africa's startup landscape has seen impressive growth in recent years, with venture capital financing on a consistent rise. Despite global economic challenges, startup funding in Africa surged by a record 253% in 2021, reaching \$5.4 billion. This upward trend continued in 2022. Yet significant hurdles remain, particularly in transitioning startups from idea to scale-up phase.

Startup funding is often concentrated in specific countries or sectors. This underscores the urgency of boosting domestic capital for long-term sustainability and local economic value. The timbuktoo model was designed in 2023 to address these challenges. It focuses on three key gaps in Africa's tech innovation ecosystem: missing early-stage risk and domestic capital; fragmented and weak tech ecosystems; and barriers to accessing pan-African markets.

### **What is the aim and objective?**

The primary aim of timbuktoo is to establish a \$1 billion youth innovation financing facility over 10 years, set to support 1,000 high-growth startups, improve 100 million livelihoods and generate \$10 billion in economic value. The timbuktoo model focuses on creating a catalytic fund through the timbuktoo Africa Innovation Foundation, which will invest in eight thematic Innovation Hubs distributed across the continent. The dual structure of the Innovation Hubs — comprised of a venture fund and a 'sidecar' startup builder — will ensure that startups receive both the financial support, and the practical

guidance needed to scale effectively. The hubs will serve as pan-African centres of excellence and will offer support in multiple sectors, including fintech, agritech, healthtech, greentech, tradetech, smart cities, creatives and edutech.

## **Climate Ambition Raising Through Article 6**

### **What is it?**

CARTA (Climate Ambition Raising Through Article 6) is a new initiative launched by UNDP in partnership with the Swedish Energy Agency (SEA) in December 2023 to promote and enable ambitious climate action. The programme, running from 2024 to 2030, will focus on supporting developing countries to implement their climate plans in line with the Paris Agreement. Using a performance-based payments modality, CARTA will provide technical assistance, as well as de-risk and incentivize private sector investments that directly support countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

### **How and why was it created?**

CARTA was developed as a development finance mechanism in response to the challenges that developing countries face in implementing the carbon markets outlined in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Countries struggle with securing upfront finance for projects that generate Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs). Often, they also lack the technical and institutional capacity needed for effective carbon market participation and regulatory alignment with systems like the European Union (EU) Emissions Trading System. To address these challenges, UNDP partnered with the SEA, combining the latter's expertise in climate finance and carbon market mechanisms with UNDP's extensive country presence. This collaboration aims to enhance carbon market participation and stimulate private sector investment in the climate value chain. By bridging gaps in funding and capacity, CARTA seeks to accelerate emissions reductions and foster sustainable economic growth in emerging markets.

## **What is the aim and objective?**

Through a performance-based payments model, CARTA seeks to de-risk and incentivize private sector investments in projects that directly support countries' conditional NDCs. By injecting \$50 million and leveraging at least three times that amount in private investment between 2024 and 2030, CARTA aims to reduce emissions by approximately 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. The programme prioritizes projects that not only reduce emissions, but also deliver additional benefits aligned with the SDGs — such as creating green jobs or promoting inclusive economic growth. Ultimately, CARTA aims to drive long-term transformation by encouraging private sector-led approaches to achieving NDCs and fostering a low-carbon development trajectory for developing countries.

---

**“I am constantly trying to learn how to communicate better, and in a benevolent way, while knowing how to set boundaries, listen and take into consideration other people’s feelings.”**

**Nisrine Mbarki,**  
2nd cohort African Young Women Leader  
(AfYWL) Fellow, deployed to UNDP Niger



# 03



# Executive summary

**The Regional Programme (RP) for Africa is governed by the Regional Programme Document (RPD) for Africa (2022-2025). The RPD provides a framework that aims to align UNDP's efforts with regional, sub-regional, and national development priorities across the African continent.**

The RPD proposes to tackle regional challenges by offering programmatic support to countries facing similar development issues, leveraging the collective strength of these nations to address specific problems. A central theme of the RPD is the enhancement of regional institutions' capacities and priorities, achieved through collaboration with a diverse range of partners, including the African Union Commission (AUC), civil society organizations (CSOs), and bilateral partners.

The RPD focuses on four priority areas, corresponding to four Outcomes, which resonate with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want:

- Priority 1 – People / Outcome 1: African citizens (especially women and youth), within the context of reinvigorated social contracts, have a stronger voice and influence in policymaking and implementation processes within the African Union, regional economic communities, and regional mechanisms.
- Priority 2 – Prosperity / Outcome 2: African citizens (especially women and youth) benefit from a regionally integrated, structurally transformed, and inclusive economy.
- Priority 3 – Planet / Outcome 3: African citizens (especially women and youth), supported by the African Union and regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, build a resilient Africa.
- Priority 4 – Peace / Outcome 4: African citizens (especially women and youth), supported by the African Union and regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, achieve measurable progress towards sustainable peace. These planned Outcomes are anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and the Regional Bureau for Africa's (RBA) Strategic Offer. The RP also aims to advance the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025.

In 2023, the **People pillar** of the Regional Programme for Africa made significant strides in amplifying the voice and influence of African citizens, particularly of women and youth, within regional and continental policymaking processes.

The UNDP Regional Programme for Africa helped to develop policies and programmes to enhance disaster risk reduction and resilience, conducted regional workshops on climate finance governance, and supported women negotiators and RECs to address gender disparities and violence.

To foster youth involvement in governance and economic opportunities, the Regional Programme supported the YouthConnekt Africa Summit, and the launch of the 1 Million Next Level initiative, which engaged 20,000 young people, government officials and business leaders, to harness the creative energy of African youth. Likewise, the flagship African Young Women Leadership Programme continued supporting fellowship placements for young women across UNDP Country Offices, to empower a new generation of women leaders who will tomorrow lead the development of the continent.

**Under the Prosperity pillar**, the Programme made significant progress in promoting economic integration and structural transformation across Africa, with a focus on the well-being of women and youth. African economies exhibited resilience despite challenges such as regional instability, climate change impacts, and rising food and energy prices, with over half experiencing GDP growth. Key achievements included the accelerated implementation of the AfCFTA, the establishment of critical trade protocols, and initiatives to formalize informal enterprises and support private sector development. The Prosperity pillar also played a crucial role in driving sustainable development through initiatives that improved SDG financing, encouraged green business, and promoted inclusive growth. These efforts laid the foundation for more inclusive and resilient economic growth across Africa by unlocking new economic opportunities for marginalized groups through innovative financing mechanisms, digital platforms, and strategic partnerships.

**Under the Peace pillar**, the Programme made significant progress in promoting economic integration and structural transformation across Africa, with a focus on the well-being of women and youth. African economies exhibited resilience despite challenges such as regional instability, climate change impacts, and rising food and energy prices, with over half experiencing GDP growth. Key achievements included the accelerated implementation of the AfCFTA, the establishment of critical trade protocols, and initiatives to formalize informal enterprises and support private sector development. The Prosperity pillar also played a crucial role in driving sustainable development

through initiatives that improved SDG financing, encouraged green business, and promoted inclusive growth. These efforts laid the foundation for more inclusive and resilient economic growth across Africa by unlocking new economic opportunities for marginalized groups through innovative financing mechanisms, digital platforms, and strategic partnerships.

**Under the Planet pillar**, the Regional Programme efforts focused on building climate change resilience across the continent, particularly for women and youth. In response to catastrophic climate events witnessed across the continent, including severe droughts, cyclones, and floods, UNDP supported the operationalization of critical frameworks such as the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS). The Programme promoted data-driven decision-making through initiatives like the Sahel Resilience Project, which aimed to enhance disaster management by establishing integrated risk information platforms. Efforts to secure climate finance were prioritized, including developing carbon market policies and establishing emissions trading schemes in countries like Nigeria and Namibia. Additionally, the Programme enhanced regional collaboration on climate adaptation and promoted renewable energy solutions, strengthening Africa's capacity to address climate challenges and build a resilient future.

Projects and activities falling under the **Peace pillar** were dedicated to promoting sustainable peace across Africa, with a particular focus on empowering women and youth in conflict-affected and unstable regions. Amid rising fatalities from militant Islamist violence and increasing political instability, UNDP, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, launched its new flagship (AFSIT) and the Soldiers and Citizens report, providing critical insights into the structural causes of UCGs and fostering democratic resilience. The Africa Borderlands Centre emphasized the resilience of borderland communities and the tangible impact of development interventions in borderland areas through storytelling, while the Regional Stabilization Facility for the Lake Chad Basin significantly improved security conditions and access to social services. Efforts to counter violent extremism included high-level policy dialogues, extensive media campaigns, and

community-driven initiatives, contributing to a deeper understanding of extremism's root causes and promoting peace. These initiatives underscore UNDP's commitment to building a more peaceful and stable Africa, grounded in human rights and inclusive development.

With respect to **gender mainstreaming**, several initiatives of the Regional Programme collectively bolstered women's roles in decision-making processes, promoted gender-sensitive policies, and led to more inclusive and equitable development. We engaged women-led civil society organizations in the Sahel, promoted women's participation at the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Regional Multifunctional Youth Forum, and built capacities for gender-sensitive climate actions. Economic empowerment projects like the Regional Stabilization Facility in Lake Chad boosted women's livelihood activities, while the Integrated Approach Pilot Programme for Food Security in Malawi provided alternative incomes for women. Other initiatives supported women entrepreneurs and integrated gender considerations into financing processes, promoting women-led SMEs and enhancing women's economic participation and financial independence.

**Intra-project collaborations** between teams enhanced capacity building by reaching more targeted and wider audiences. This was demonstrated, for instance, by the successful partnership between the Gender Team and Inclusive Growth team, which led to the effective integration of inclusive growth and gender topics into capacity-building programmes.

Synergies facilitated integrated project management, as shown by the Community-Based Social Protection Regional Report and the Local Multidimensional Poverty Index. Similarly, synergies also boosted programmatic and policy efforts. For instance, the collaboration between the Africa Sustainable Finance Hub (ASFH) and the Gender Team during the SDG budgeting workshop in Mali facilitated the integration of gender considerations into national financing strategies, ensuring gender equality in financial planning and resource allocation. The synergies between initiatives leveraged teams' resources and expertise across different thematic priorities, such as UNDP support towards the AfCFTA.

The innovative practices implemented across various projects within the Regional Programme for Africa also demonstrate how **digital solutions, data utilization and ecosystem approaches** are effectively addressing complex development challenges.



Kigali, Rwanda  
© UNDP Africa



# 04



# Results and activities of 2023

**In 2023, UNDP Regional Programme for Africa made significant progress across its four pillars: People, Prosperity, Planet, and Peace. Key achievements included promoting a regionally integrated and inclusive economy, enhancing climate resilience, fostering sustainable peace and empowering citizens. Strategic partnerships, innovative solutions and targeted initiatives equipped the Regional Programme to tackle key challenges and deliver sustainable development results for people across the continent, with a special focus on women and youth.**

# People

African citizens (especially women and youth), in a context of reinvigorated social contracts, have a stronger voice and influence in African Union and regional economic communities and regional mechanisms policymaking and implementation processes.



## Context:

In 2023, the African continent witnessed eight significant elections, comprising some of the most populous countries. These elections, affecting nearly a third of Africa's population, were characterized by varying trajectories and challenges, including institutional legacies of one-party rule and uneven electoral playing fields. Nonetheless, they showed robust democratic resilience through the active participation of civil servants, political parties, and citizen groups, including youth.

The critical need for educational transformation in Africa was underscored by the proposal to designate 2024 as the Year of Education, following the global Summit on Transforming Education in September 2022. Recent reviews of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa and the Education 2030 Framework for Action indicate that African governments have undertaken extensive programmes and policy efforts to ensure equitable access to education to African youth over the past decade. Challenges pertaining to access to education however remain. While the out-of-school rate has been decreasing, particularly at the primary level, the absolute number of out-of-school children in Africa has reached an alarming 98 million.

The 2023 UN Women and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Gender Snapshot report highlighted enduring gender disparities in sub-Saharan Africa. Women predominantly occupy the informal sector, are responsible for a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic work and earn less than half of their male counterparts for comparable work. Additionally, women face heightened maternal health risks and pervasive gender-based violence. Food and water insecurity remain critical challenges, with many women lacking access to clean energy.

By 2050, sub-Saharan Africa is expected to be home to a substantial share of the world's youth population, with more than a third of young people (aged 15–24) projected to be African. Despite educational advances compared to previous generations, young Africans face substantial unemployment and are often excluded from formal governance structures. They express dissatisfaction with their government's performance in addressing key issues, such as job creation and public service delivery. This disenchantment is coupled with a critical view of democratic processes and a willingness to support non-democratic interventions if elected leaders abuse their power. The youth remain a vital constituency in advocating for democratic values and demanding more inclusive and responsive governance.

## Knowledge and data-driven development

To highlight the intensity of poverty and accelerate efforts to end it, UNDP supported the development of the Local Multidimensional Poverty Index in Burkina Faso, Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Each country tailored its own Index methodology, and partnerships with national statistics institutes enabled the collection of **quantitative data and qualitative evidence on multidimensional poverty**, resulting in the production of detailed reports. One country completed its report by the end of 2023, while the others are set to be completed in 2024. These efforts will inform inclusive and integrated programmatic solutions that will be incorporated into UNDP's Inclusive Growth Portfolios and national policies, with additional guidance planned for broader application across Africa.

**In the ECOWAS region, to enhance accountability towards gender equality**, UNDP Gender Team supported the establishment and operationalization of the ECOWAS Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Data-based platform. A regional workshop trained 45 ECOWAS focal points on the platform and offered hands-on experience, promoting digital skills transfer and peer-to-peer learning.

Complex development challenges intersect with peacebuilding and humanitarian action in borderlands areas. **To improve community-based social protection in the borderlands** and enhance understanding of this nexus, UNDP developed the Community-Based Social Protection Regional Report — highlighting not only the challenges, but also opportunities for transformation in these areas. The Community-based Social Protection Mechanisms in Africa's borderlands – Liberia and Sierra Leone case study report was published in December 2023. It followed a preliminary presentation of findings at the Southern African Social Protection Experts' Network Annual Conference at the University of Mauritius, and a Regional Workshop in Mombasa with researchers, experts and colleagues. The published study forms part of a larger sub-Saharan Africa regional study, which includes Ghana, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

To address the **pressing need for effective governance and transformative leadership in Africa**, UNDP, in collaboration with the Nigeria Governors'

Forum, hosted an **Executive Leadership Retreat (ELR)** in Kigali, Rwanda, from 24 to 26 August 2023. This initiative aimed to equip newly elected Nigerian governors with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead and deliver effectively in a complex and uncertain environment. The retreat, attended by 16 governors and 3 deputy governors from 19 states, was designed to **foster adaptive leadership, strategic planning, and transformative governance**. The ELR provided a platform for deep experiential learning and peer-to-peer exchanges, enabling leaders to explore innovative governance solutions and rethink leadership approaches for **better service delivery, trust-building, and resilience**. In 2024, the lessons learned from the ELR initiative will inform the formalization of a new continental leadership programme for public officials in Africa, supporting the **accelerated achievement of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063**.

**To engage young people in action-oriented discussions on policies, programmes and investments** that can advance dignified and fulfilling **work for youth in Africa**, during the YouthConnekt Africa Summit in Nairobi, the Regional Programme for Africa supported the organization of the Policy Hackathon. Focused on green industries and environmentally sustainable practices that tackle climate change challenges while providing socio-economic benefits, the event addressed how technology and innovation can help Africa's youth to fully participate in an increasingly digital job market. It also explored ways to foster a borderless entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa to increase collaboration and cooperation across countries. The YouthConnekt Africa Summit therefore provided a platform for empowering youth by enriching their knowledge, experiences and skills while supporting their ideas, innovations and initiatives.

---

**“You are the generation that will propel this continent to the global stage of transformation. Use this moment to ask questions and provide solutions to pressing challenges.”**

**Ahunna Eziakonwa**,  
UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa

## Enhancing accountability and collaboration

**In the IGAD region, to address the needs and perspectives of women and youth**, the Gender Team supported the adoption and launch of the IGAD Gender Equality Strategy 2023–2030. The strategy development followed a rigid consultative approach. The final document was validated by member states and IGAD teams, ensuring alignment with IGAD priorities and international frameworks.

**To bolster efforts to end violence against women and girls**, the Gender Team continued working with the AUC to develop and adopt the first Regional Action Plan for Africa with a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls, which was adopted in November. The Plan serves as a guiding framework and calls for a coordinated approach that encourages momentum among member states to create their own National Action Plans, enhancing their ability to meet human rights commitments.

**To boost collaboration between private entities, civil society and governments while increasing support for gender integration in businesses**, the Gender Team conducted research on gender equality in the African private sector. The findings and recommendations were presented at the Africa Pre-Commission on the Status of Women meeting in November.

The support of the Gender Team contributed to the launch of Rwanda's National Gender Standard programme **to guide the nation on gender-sensitive policies**. The incorporation of the Gender Equality Seal for the Private Sector significantly increased women's representation in management and technical positions in companies (e.g. the Rwanda Energy Group and the National Bank of Rwanda). The Team's support towards the introduction of gender-responsive financial products (at Ecobank and the Bank of Kigali) further enhanced women's access to finance.

**Promoting youth-led solutions in governance and peacebuilding**, the YPS Hackathon held during the sixth YouthConnekt Africa Summit brought together 120 participants from eight countries.

The hackathon fostered creative problem-solving for YPS challenges and offered a space for young people to connect and share best practices. This hackathon is a part of broader YPS efforts, including UNDP-led report *Youth in Africa: A Demographic Imperative for Peace and Security*, which draws on key insights from existing relevant resources, such as the *UN Programming Handbook on Youth, Peace and Security*<sup>1</sup>.

Also, at the YouthConnekt Africa Summit 2023, in partnership with the AUC, Trace and IOM, the 1 Million Next Level initiative was launched at the newly established Egumeni Hub — a dynamic space designed to **celebrate and harness the creative energy of African youth**. The initiative, which engaged 20,000 young people, government officials and business leaders, marked a significant milestone in empowering African youth and tapping into their creative potential.

**To amplify the voices of Africa's youth and encourage their meaningful participation**, the RP provided a platform at the YouthConnekt panel discussion on youth policy dialogue. This gave young participants the chance to discuss critical issues, share their perspectives and influence policy-making processes.

Recognizing the importance of **aligning education with job opportunities for Africa's youth**, the session on African Youth Mobility to Power African Labour Markets and Trade addressed labour mobility and migration issues. It emphasized the role of digital marketplaces, youth-led initiatives and the need to connect education with employment to unlock socio-economic potential. The discussion included the African Youth Charter of 2006, and how the AfCFTA could be leveraged to enhance educational and employment opportunities.

## Empowering communities through capacity building

**To increase economic opportunities for women entrepreneurs in the IGAD region**, the second cohort of the online Financial Literacy Training Programme empowered 1,280 women entrepreneurs with skills in enterprise building, market analysis, competitive strategy development, business record-keeping and accessing funding.

<sup>1</sup> UNFPA, UNDP, DPPA/PBSO, FBA, 2021



To ensure ongoing support, the Women Entrepreneurs Network Platform was launched, providing a sustainable space for networking and continued training.

UNDP Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel (RPYES), in collaboration with the Associazione di cooperazione e solidarietà internazionale and other NGOs, launched the Personal Fulfilment as an Alternative to Migration initiative, benefitting nearly 400 at-risk **young people in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso**. This included 70 participants in a roundtable during the Global Social Economy Forum and 326 attendees at a regional workshop in Burkina Faso.

RPYES also partnered with Give1Project to provide **cybersecurity and computer graphics training** to 24 young people from the West Africa and Central Africa region through a three-month remote training programme. The training, which covered cybersecurity, computer graphics, artificial intelligence (AI) and data protection, aimed to boost employability.

In partnership with UNICEF, RPYES produced the Youth Voices video series, showcasing the success stories of 10 **young entrepreneurs from the Sahel**. These stories, available in English and French, highlight innovations in resilience, technology, inclusion, environmental protection and renewable energy.

timbuktoo, a UNDP pan-African initiative, aims to **leverage Africa's startup trends to support youth innovation** entrepreneurs by establishing a \$1 billion financing facility to scale 1,000 high-growth startups, improve 100 million livelihoods, and create \$10 billion in value over 10 years. During YouthConnekt, the initiative was showcased to Nairobi's startup ecosystem, highlighting the upcoming Climate Tech Hub in Nairobi and engaging stakeholders from across the continent.

The new 'Meet the Toshika' programme, supported by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, connects startups with Japanese investors. In 2023, the Programme's Start-Up Challenge Fund selected 30 startups from 254 applications, providing them with three months of bootcamp training and tailored investment readiness support. The programme also initiated entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping in three African countries<sup>2</sup> to identify gaps within their

startup ecosystems. It also hosted an ecosystem event, attended by 210 people, where six startups pitched ideas to investors before visiting Japan to meet more investors.

**To foster a new generation of young African women leaders to serve Africa and the world**, the Regional Programme continued implementing its African Young Women Leaders Fellowship initiative in partnership with the AUC. This year's highlights included the graduation of the second cohort and the publication of the *Ubuntu Storybook*, which shares their leadership journeys. The call for applications for the third cohort was launched, targeting young women across all 54 AU countries. In addition to the fellowship placements at UNDP offices, the AfYWL Virtual Career Lab offered career-planning guidance for fellows, while the Leadership Series provided ongoing opportunities for fellows to enhance their leadership skills by learning from senior officials from the UN, AUC, private sector and other institutions.

ASFH has been instrumental in **implementing digital and financial initiatives to support sustainable development financing across Africa**. In Botswana, ASFH helped launch the Sustainable Digital Fund Mobilization Platform, helping the Botswana Country Office to secure a system developer in collaboration with FinFind. The Platform streamlines the process of matching SMEs with suitable funders and investors, reducing the time and cost involved in securing financial services. Country offices from Algeria, Angola and Ghana similarly expressed interest in the Platform, with support plans underway. ASFH is also implementing the E-commerce Scaling and Intervention Package in Uganda and Nigeria, leveraging UNDP's partnership with Jumia to utilize vendor financing solutions. Additionally, ASFH, in collaboration with the Eswatini Country Office, launched the Agri-Fintech Accelerator, securing co-funding to develop a digital platform for improving access to supply chain finance in agriculture.

<sup>2</sup> Zambia, Angola, and South Africa.

# Prosperity

African citizens (especially women, and youth) benefit from a regionally integrated, structurally transformed, and inclusive economy.

## Context:

The year 2023 was marked by significant economic developments across Africa, highlighted by the accelerated implementation of the AfCFTA. This strong political commitment aims to boost intra-African trade and advance the goals of Agenda 2063. Despite challenges such as higher food and energy prices, climate change impacts and regional political instability, African economies showed resilience. Over half of them registered higher gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates compared to 2022, even though the overall growth slowed to 3.1 percent from 4.1 percent.

Key milestones included adopting Provisional Schedules of Tariff Concessions, agreements on Rules of Origin, and finalizing the Protocol on Digital Trade and Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade. However, high levels of public debt and deepening financial gaps, now above \$4 trillion annually, pose significant threats to sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. Strong domestic resource mobilization and efficient public spending are urgently needed to address these challenges.

## Private sector development support

The project 'Promoting Inclusive Intra-African Trade through the AfCFTA to Accelerate Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development in Africa' contributed to **the AfCFTA Secretariat's capacity to advance policy processes and coordinate relevant aspects of implementation**. Institutional support extended to the AfCFTA Secretariat included technical expertise, operational capacities, the development of key policies (the Protocol on Digital Trade and the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade) and hosting of events (the first AfCFTA Youth Symposium and the second edition of the Women in Trade Conference).

To **accelerate the operationalization of the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative**, the project collaborated with 31 countries committed to starting or scaling up exchanges under the preferential terms of the One African market. This progress is a result of UNDP's direct support to the AfCFTA Secretariat, as well as efforts by various UNDP Country Offices, supported or guided by the Regional Service Centre for Africa's AfCFTA team, to build consensus at national and regional levels on policy instruments, regulatory





frameworks and institutional arrangements. At the business-to-business (B2B) level, the Intra African Trade Fair 2023 and the Ghana-Kenya Market Entry Expedition, among others, **connected micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from over 18 countries to AfCFTA markets**. Additionally, over 25 governments and four RECs received technical and policy advisory services to **implement the AfCFTA and related policy programmes**.

The project 'Supporting Informal Enterprises Transition Towards Sustainable Growth and Formalization in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Region' **helped informal businesses to enter the formal economy** and guided organizations to assist these enterprises in better targeting their services. In Sierra Leone, the government was supported in developing a plan to grow businesses. To expand financial services for informal enterprises, technical support was provided to 13 financial intermediaries in Sierra Leone and Mozambique.

The ASFH used the **Ecosystem Development Approach to offer private sector companies advisory services, innovative products and solutions**. Collaboration with country offices promoted innovative financing models for MSMEs and startups, supporting the transition of informal enterprises towards sustainable growth and formalization. These activities also fostered the development of green business and financing, including resilient and sustainable food value chains. As a result, in Gabon, an informal digital enterprise registration system (*Guichet Numérique de l'Investissement*) registered over 18,000 businesses, and a new banking module was launched to facilitate opening bank accounts, improving access to public services.

Looking ahead, the ASFH will be finalizing the development of the Inclusive Bond project, launched with the Cameroon Country Office and FinAfrique. This new mechanism seeks to make financing more affordable for vulnerable entrepreneurial groups. In 2023, the ASFH collected data for a feasibility study involving over 300 MSMEs in Cameroon, and held a workshop with over 100 stakeholders from ministries, banks, and the private sector to discuss the findings.

To improve access to finance for MSMEs, three innovative financing interventions are planned for 2024: The Agric-Fintech Accelerator, the Sustainable Digital Fund Mobilization Platform and the E-Commerce Scaling-up and SME Intervention Package. . These include the development of a digital platform to enable and **promote digital financing for SMEs**.

In 2023, the ‘Integrated Approach Pilot Programme for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa’ concluded with an overview of the pilot programme at the ‘Value Chain Greening Knowledge-sharing Learning Event’. During the programme, three catalytic grant projects were designed and implemented with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa to **promote Green Value Chain Development** (aflatoxin-free groundnut, resilient maize and sorghum) in East, Southern and West Africa.

The projects reached more than 130 extension officers, 600 community agribusiness advisors/village-based advisors, and 47,000 smallholder farmers across Malawi, Tanzania and Burkina Faso. Knowledge products were developed, with some published in scientific journals, **to document lessons on responding to climate change and environmental challenges**.

Progress was made in setting up the project ‘Empowering West African Women Small and Medium Enterprises in Rice Value Chains’, that was launched in December 2023. A comprehensive baseline study across four countries<sup>3</sup> will be finalized in 2024. Key project documents, including the grant operational manual, monitoring and evaluation plan and communication plan were developed and endorsed by all four countries.

---

**“It may seem like yet another abstract framework, but the AfCFTA will affect not only our businesses but our day-to-day lives as young Africans. It’s now up to us to take advantage of the agreement”**

**Gugulethu Siso**

CEO of Thumeza, Zimbabwe

## Promoting SDG Financing

To **improve national SDG financing**, integration between public and private financing and national planning, and public and private sector collaboration, ASFH supported 36 out of 46 sub-Saharan African countries to advance their Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs). Thirty-one countries were assisted to conduct Development Finance Assessments, with seven<sup>4</sup> completing them in 2023. Seventeen countries were supported to develop Financing Strategies — with Uganda successfully launching its strategy in 2023, while 13 others<sup>5</sup> are nearing completion.

**ASFH provided SDG budgeting** training and support for national, regional and global events, increased countries’ capacity to align national budgets with SDGs, and advanced SDG resource mobilization.

To foster **sustainability in Africa’s private sector value creation and improve finance access across the continent**, the ASFH supported the completion of SDG Investor Maps in 15 countries and initiated additional maps in four more.<sup>6</sup> These maps offer market intelligence in emerging markets aligned with national development needs and policy priorities to provide investor momentum. Several countries were supported to move towards investment pipeline development, deal origination and brokering. As a result, two pipelines for SDG investments amounted to \$119 million in investment opportunities for 19 companies in Nigeria, with more pipelines expected in six other countries next year.<sup>7</sup>

The ASFH also **provided financial institutions and enterprises with the tools and capacities needed to manage and measure SDG-related impacts, including strengthening green capital markets**. Thirty SDG Impact Standards Trainers were trained by ASFH and are expected to receive accreditation. Seven countries<sup>8</sup> received direct financing support to benefit from green debt capital markets, while seven others<sup>9</sup> began to actively participate in the Green and Resilience Debt Platform, initiated in 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Niger, Guinea, Senegal and Sierra Leone

<sup>4</sup> Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, Seychelles, Zambia

<sup>5</sup> Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Gabon, Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania (Zanzibar).

<sup>6</sup> Republic of Congo, Angola, Mauritania, Côte d’Ivoire.

<sup>7</sup> Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Rwanda.

<sup>8</sup> Gabon, Tanzania and Zanzibar, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Cameroon.

<sup>9</sup> Namibia, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, Angola, Cameroon.

To empower African countries to mobilize and manage financial resources more effectively, the ASFH also **promoted financial inclusion strategies at the national and regional levels**. Together with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) MAP Programme Global, the ASFH co-developed a programme on regional financial inclusion within domestic finance agendas.

The development of a Financial Inclusion Strategy for Eswatini and Lesotho was initiated. Insights from the process contributed to the formulation of the *SADC Financial Inclusion Strategy*, helping to foster regional collaboration and alignment on financial inclusion goals. A joint analysis with UNCDF of countries' financing strategies and Development Finance Assessments is expected to facilitate financial inclusion roadmaps and frameworks for countries in need.

To scale up investments in sectors that advance **SDG achievement among** marginalized groups, the ASFH provided technical policy support to 10 country offices<sup>10</sup> and their Country Programme Documents. This ensured the prioritization of inclusive growth and financing of the SDG Agenda.

In 2023, the 'Tax for SDGs in Africa' initiative **increased the capacities of national tax administrations to tackle tax avoidance, tax evasion and illicit financial flows**. The initiative supported Ministries of Finance and Revenue Administrations in 15 countries<sup>11</sup> to develop Country Engagement Plans to implement SDG-aligned tax interventions. Eight such plans<sup>12</sup> were completed, with the remainder set for completion by end 2024. Additionally, 36 Tax Inspectors Without Borders programmes raised approximately \$222 million in additional tax revenue. This included 11 new programmes launched in eight countries.<sup>13</sup>

Significant efforts were made to digitalize tax administrations in seven countries.<sup>14</sup> This included the acquisition of the Oracle System in Namibia and training of 118 public officials in Nigeria and Tanzania. Over 1,100 officials from Tax Administrations and Ministries of Finance in seven countries<sup>15</sup> were trained on tax policies and frameworks. **Six African countries<sup>16</sup> received support in aligning tax and fiscal policies with SDGs**. The newly launched SDG Taxation Framework diagnostics mechanism was implemented in five countries.<sup>17</sup> In Zimbabwe, two policies were adopted by the government after the Sustainable Development Goals Taxation Framework assessment. In Tanzania, an Islamic Taxation policy was tabled, while legislation for an Advance Pricing Agreement and Transfer Pricing is being developed.

To **provide technical support in implementing Agenda 2063**, the Technical Working Group on Agenda 2063 brings together entities from the AU, UN and the African Development Bank (AfDB). This year, the Group helped articulate the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063, which is expected to be approved at the 2024 Summit Heads of State of the African Union.

In preparation for the 2023 SDG Summit, UNDP supported 44 member states to articulate the Integrated SDG Insights, which informed their National Commitments for SDG Acceleration and Transformation. Key priorities include improving people's experience with public services (SDG 16.6), the creation of jobs (SDG 8.5) and value addition (SDG 9.2).

<sup>10</sup> Burundi, Mauritania, Togo, Mauritius, Seychelles, Angola, Gambia, Guinea, Madagascar, Namibia.

<sup>11</sup> Congo, Togo, Gabon, Comoros, Seychelles, Rwanda, Kenya, Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

<sup>12</sup> Congo, Togo, Gabon, Comoros, Seychelles, Rwanda, Kenya, Namibia.

<sup>13</sup> Liberia (January 2023), Tanzania (April 2023), Eswatini (May 2023), South Africa (May 2023), Benin (July), Zambia (September), Zambia (October) and Zimbabwe (October 2023).

<sup>14</sup> Congo, Eswatini, Togo, Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria, Tanzania.

<sup>15</sup> Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Seychelles, Tanzania, and Eswatini.

<sup>16</sup> Togo, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Nigeria, Eswatini.

<sup>17</sup> Togo, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Nigeria.



## Fostering innovation and digitalization

ASFH provided support to four countries<sup>18</sup> on INFF-related reforms in public finance and contributed to UNDP's groundbreaking data visualization tool showcasing South-South and Triangular Cooperation practices.

Efforts were also dedicated to nurturing new initiatives that will drive future progress. In Gabon, a digital informal enterprise registration system was piloted through a needs assessment, securing buy-in among financial sector operators, and the development of a digital banking module. The system will be scaled up to new countries.

The project titled 'Supporting Informal Enterprises Transition towards Sustainable Growth and Formalization in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Regions' supported the **establishment of a collective action platform for targeted interventions**. The platform will tackle systemic gaps that currently hinder the development of informal enterprises.

## Enhancing collaborations to use evidence and knowledge

In 2023, ASFH reached more than 1,200 African public officials through multiple **public finance** knowledge-sharing opportunities. For example, the Global Conference on Public Finance for Inclusive and Sustainable Development saw over 100 high-level representatives from African countries share insights on INFFs, gender-sensitive budgeting and transparency. The event was jointly held by UNDP, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). ASFH also co-organized South-South capacity-building seminars with China to **foster innovation and entrepreneurship**.

To promote **experience- and perspective-sharing between countries**, 64 delegates were supported to participate in forums on tax policy and tax administration, contributing insights from African country contexts to the global debate on international tax reforms. These included the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) meeting, the Global Dialogue on Tax and SDGs, and the Tax Inspectors Without Borders stakeholder workshop.

The Strategy, Analysis and Research Team (SART) conducted analysis to identify pathways towards accessible, reliable and affordable energy in the Sahel, completing background studies and statistical analysis of human development in the 10 Sahel countries in 2023.<sup>19</sup> The findings are captured in the *Sustainable Energy for Economic and Climate Security in the Sahel Human Development Report*.

To **tackle multi-faceted challenges on the Sahel**, the Implementation Support Unit for the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) supported the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to produce and disseminate critical data, including threat assessments on transnational organized crime. These highlighted a significant 'trafficking economy' and provided crucial insights for policy responses. Active communication on UN efforts in the Sahel was maintained through strategic reports, newsletters and social media engagement, **enhancing awareness and guiding effective programmatic and policy actions**.

The Unit **enhanced coordination and stakeholder engagement** through several key activities. The two UNISS Steering Committee meetings facilitated by the Implementation Support Unit created opportunities for improved **inclusion and strategic direction**, while enabling the UNISS working groups on Governance, Peace and Security and Resilience to meet regularly. The support provided towards the establishment of the UN Inter-agency Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Platform is expected to further harmonize partnerships towards joint resource mobilization efforts undertaken by separate UN agencies. Additionally, two dialogue sessions facilitated between the UN and NGOs in the Sahel further **enhanced coordination between different actors**.

<sup>18</sup> Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Zambia and Malawi.

<sup>19</sup> Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal

A training for over 90 experts — representing governments, UN agencies and civil society — improved overall collaboration and led to the establishment of the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Community of Practice for the Sahel.

To support the UNISS strategic goals of promoting governance, resilience and security in the Sahel region, the Unit supported the **integration of UNISS into national and regional planning tools**. Through swift collaboration with the UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) and Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs), UNISS was integrated into eight<sup>20</sup> UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and informed nine Common Country Analyses<sup>21</sup> across the Sahel. Efforts to strengthen partnerships and raise awareness led to a side event at 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties (COP28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), raising support for water-related services in the Sahel. Engagement with various Sahel platforms and international partners (G5 Sahel, the Liptako Gourma Authority, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Sahel Alliance and the Coalition for the Sahel) enhanced programmatic coherence and resource mobilization efforts across the region.

To **strengthen the coherence, integration and coordination of programmes under UNISS**, support was delivered to UNDP Regional Stabilization Facilities in the Lake Chad Basin and Liptako Gourma regions. This helped to integrate development programmes where Senegal, Mali and Mauritania come together, with a focus on youth and women. These efforts also **enhanced cross-border early warning mechanisms and security collaboration** between Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo. The project supported the establishment of a portfolio of 15 inter-agency integrated programmes, valued at approximately \$390 million, and forms part of an ongoing effort aimed to mobilize more resources around the priorities of the Sahel region and UNISS.

As part of its work to promote inclusive growth, the ASFH promoted a Leave No One Behind agenda to **ensure that marginalized communities and vulnerable groups are included and benefit from economic development activities**. This was implemented through various channels, including policy and programme implementation, and partnership building — with a focus on aspects that especially benefit vulnerable groups. Discussions with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange were initiated to develop an SDG Index, which can assess listed companies' performance in allocating investments to SDG-related efforts.

Other efforts to scale up initiatives aimed at inclusive growth included discussions with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Banking Business Council to integrate SDG indicators into the decision-making processes to make approving projects more equitable and SDG-aligned. Collaboration was also continued between previously disadvantaged South African universities and Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States of America to enhance capacity development in African higher education. Another initiative saw the successful design of a project with the European Commission aimed at enhancing the Johannesburg Stock Exchange's capacity to issue green bonds.

<sup>20</sup> Burkina Faso, Senegal, Chad, Mauritania, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon.

<sup>21</sup> Burkina Faso, Senegal, Chad, Mauritania, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, and The Gambia

# Planet

African citizens (especially women and youth), supported by the African Union and regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, build a resilient Africa.

## Context:

From heatwaves to drought, the year 2023 saw many examples of Africa's vulnerability to climate change, underscoring the urgent need for climate resilience. Countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Kenya faced devastating floods, while Cyclone Freddy caused widespread destruction in Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi. The Horn of Africa suffered its worst drought in 40 years, leading to displacement and food insecurity among more than 29 million people. Following the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action, adopted at the 2023 Africa Climate Summit, outcomes from the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) included important milestones for Africa. Among them were the recognition of the urgent need for climate adaptation, the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, and global commitment to phasing out fossil fuels. Linkages between climate change and food security were formally recognized through the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture. Likewise, Sahelian countries made history by adopting a landmark declaration at the inaugural Sahel Climate, Peace and Security Forum in Bamako, Mali. The declaration pledges to strengthen climate security in the region and will guide advocacy, dialogue and negotiations led by Sahelian governments and organizations.

## Promoting data and evidence-based approaches

In 2023, the Sahel Resilience Project focused on **enhancing data management systems for resilience-building**. In collaboration with the AGRHYMET Regional Centre and other partners, a prototype for an integrated risk information platform was developed to harmonize data collection tools and aggregate regional data. The system, which enables data and evidence creation and analytics, is expected to significantly improve decision-making and disaster risk management in the Sahel.

The Sahel Resilience Project supported the AUC in **operationalizing the Framework for the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS)**, which aims to enhance early warning and disaster risk information systems across Africa.

The Project also helped to enhance urban resilience in the Sahel by addressing disasters linked with urbanization, climate change and conflict. The Project further extended its **support to the AUC to develop the African Urban Resilience Programme**. To operationalize the programme, the development of the AUC-UNDP-UN Habitat Joint Regional Programme on Smart Urban Resilience was supported on UNDP Resilience Hub's request.

To promote **evidence-based risk-informed investment decisions at the regional level**, the Sahel Resilience Project partnered with UN Habitat and supported national and local governments in eight Sahelian countries<sup>22</sup> to finalize the Spatial Development Strategy for the Sahel. The Strategy includes territorial analysis covering some 500 local government administrative units.

**An injustice burns at the heart of the climate crisis. Here, from a low emitting continent, Africa, I make a very strong appeal to the largest emitters: Assume your responsibilities!”**

**António Guterres**  
**UN Secretary General, during the 2023 Africa Climate Summit.**

ASFH partnered with the International Energy Agency, World Energy Council and National Data Centres to **enhance African governments’ capacity to generate data on emissions**. This included 18 reviews of national policies and legislation,<sup>23</sup> and the creation of an advisory note for 14 participating countries on data generation and management.

## **Promoting coherent policies and programmes**

**Adding a multi-disciplinary approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change**, the Sahel Resilience Project supported the early steps of developing the ECOWAS Regional Resilience Strategy for West Africa. The Strategy adds new critical themes for regional resilience building. These include good governance, peace and security, sustainable livelihoods and gender and social inclusion. The support ensured that a preliminary situational analysis could be completed and shared with ECOWAS Directorates and Member States. The strategy is expected to be finalized in 2024.

The project titled Strengthening Capacities for Operationalization of AMHEWAS to Foster Anticipatory Action in Africa was developed with the AUC. The initiative is expected to improve access to early warning systems, strengthen capacity and increase funding for early action across the region.

In 2023, special focus was placed on supporting three Sahel countries<sup>24</sup> to **begin developing national DRR strategies**, aligned with their commitment to the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action. Most of the work is expected to occur in 2024, but significant groundwork was completed in 2023. In Burkina Faso, the Sahel Resilience Project initiated procurement processes to begin developing the 2024–2028 national DRR strategy, and in Mali over 100 participants were engaged in consultations to begin drafting the national DRR strategy for 2024–2030. In Nigeria, more than 150 policymakers collectively decided on the DRR strategy’s approach.

**To unlock billions for the climate finance needs of African economies**, the ASFH supported governments to review and develop policies targeting Carbon Market Access and Energy Financing. In Nigeria, a detailed technical support plan was developed at the request of the Federal Government, and an Emissions Trading Scheme was established and enshrined in the 2021 Climate Change Act. Following a proposal developed by ASFH, Namibia is also expected to develop an Emissions Trading Scheme in the near future. **The development of multiple knowledge products related to carbon markets and energy financing ultimately contributed to a better understanding of thematic opportunities and challenges in advancing sustainable energy transitions and climate finance across Africa.**

<sup>22</sup> Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Senegal, and Cameroon.

<sup>23</sup> Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Liberia, Senegal, Chad, Botswana, Central Africa Republic, Angola and Eswatini.

<sup>24</sup> Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria.

To promote clean, off-grid energy, the pilot phase of the Support for Rural Electrification by Renewable Energy Systems in the Liptako Gourma Region project supported national coordination platforms to create strategies for electrification. In Burkina Faso and Mali, this included meetings of the off-grid stakeholders' consultation framework.

The Resilience Hub in Nairobi developed the Joint East Africa Community (EAC)-International Organization for Migration (IOM)-UNDP Programme. Linking human mobility with trade facilitation systems, the Programme aims to accelerate the domestication of free movement and trade regimes. This initiative is focused on building capacities at various governance levels to increase and diversify intra-regional trade, ensuring the benefits reach informal cross-border traders and communities along commercial corridors. To enhance the project's social and political viability, ownership by the EAC, national and local authorities was emphasized.

## Promoting awareness and collaboration

To promote cooperation around carbon market access and energy financing, ASFH brought together experts, government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, research entities and members of the Global Partnership Initiative, to explore the benefits of triangular and South-South cooperation for accelerating carbon market integration in Africa. Key achievements include the widespread adoption of Ghana's Article 6 Framework, discussions between the Malaysian and Nigerian stock exchanges to incorporate carbon markets, sharing South Africa's Carbon Tax Approach as a possible model, fostering the Congo Basin Initiative for Forest Based Carbon, reviving Ethiopia's Registry for airline emissions and evaluating lessons learned from the Ghana-Swiss partnership.

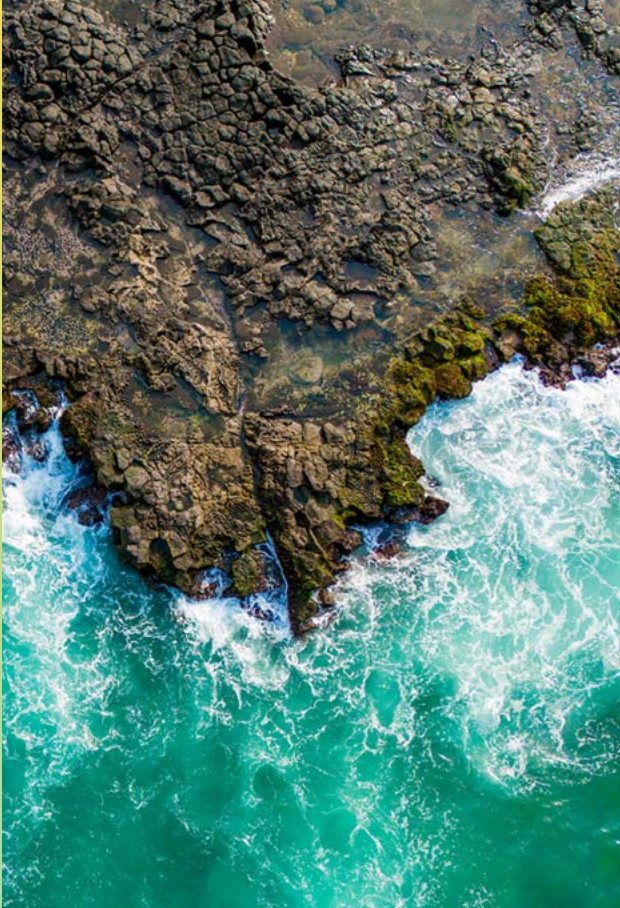
To increase awareness and advocate for Carbon Market Access and Energy Financing at national and regional levels, ASFH ensured a strong UNDP presence at the COP28, and fostered collaboration with international partners, such as the International Emissions Trading Association, and Women and Carbon Markets. The AfriCarbon monthly newsletter was introduced to showcase carbon-related activities and engagements. Advocacy efforts were initiated with the AU to establish a Carbon Markets Champion, intended to spearhead the development of an Africa-wide regional strategy on carbon market integration.

The Support for Rural Electrification by Renewable Energy Systems in the Liptako Gourma Region project conducted **capacity-building sessions for NGOs**. As a result, 45 people from three countries gained a deeper understanding of the **productive use of energy** and energy-related management of rural community enterprises.

The new **Africa Green Business and Financing Initiative** kicked off with the Africa Green Business and Financing Flagship Report. The report outlines the current state of green business and finance across Africa, focusing specifically on the activities, projects and private companies driving innovation and growth in this space. By end of the year, the report had been drafted and validated by an Advisory Board of Experts made up of 14 leading thought leaders, investors and academics, national champions from three countries<sup>25</sup> and the AU's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

<sup>25</sup> Angola, Malawi and Togo.





Dakar, Senegal  
© Ugochukwu Kingsley Ahuchaogu.

The Strengthening National Climate Finance Governance Systems to Reduce Poverty, Inequality and Vulnerability in Africa project enhanced the capacities of women negotiators and UNFCCC focal points. With RP support, the African Group of Negotiators held a two-day capacity-building workshop that enhanced participants' understanding of the UNFCCC negotiating processes, focused on gender in climate change discussions.

The Project also led a regional Training Workshop on Carbon Markets and the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. Two climate finance study reports (pending publication in 2024) were finalized. These include an analysis of Africa's Public Expenditure on Adaptation and Climate Financial Flows to Africa.

To redefine the concept of resilience and develop guidance on **operationalizing and measuring resilience on the continent**, a collaboration between UNDP and the AUC saw research on the Roots of African Resilience — an approach aimed at providing more accurate assessments of countries' resilience levels was finalized.

In line with the focus on **evidence-based approaches to resilience**, and to support the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes in their conflict and security evaluations, UNDP in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), produced the Ground Level Research Study through UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa. This analytical study of the Great Lakes region incorporates conflict and security analysis of both local and foreign armed groups.

# Peace

African citizens (especially women, and youth), supported by the African Union and regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, achieve measurable progress towards sustainable peace.

## Context:

Africa witnessed a rise in fatalities linked to militant Islamist violence in 2023, with deaths soaring by 20% from 2022, and close to doubling since 2021. Sub-Saharan jihadist groups have increasingly focused on local conflicts, exploiting existing tensions over natural resources amid weak governance and climate change. The Sahel region and Somalia accounted for 83% of these deaths, making the Sahel the deadliest region in Africa for such violence. A record 19.5 million internal displacements were witnessed in Africa in 2023, constituting 42% of the global total. Conflict and violence triggered 13.5 million movements, the highest in 15 years — with Sudan alone accounting for 45% of these.

Extreme climate phenomena, including severe flooding in the Horn of Africa, years of drought and Cyclone Freddy, led to six million displacements — nearly doubling the decade's average.

Political instability expanded in 2023, with military coups occurring both in Niger and Gabon (the first one in the Economic Community of Central African States [ECCAS]). Regional responses to the coups underscored escalating concerns over the erosion of democratic norms and governance in Africa. These included ECOWAS sanctions and Nigerian power cuts in response to Niger's coup, and ECCAS condemnation and AU membership suspension following the unconstitutional change of government (UCG) in Gabon.

# 19.5m

internal displacements were witnessed in Africa in 2023, constituting 42% of the global total.



## Creating knowledge and conducive conditions

The launch of AFSIT and the flagship *Soldiers and Citizens* report marked a significant step in establishing UNDP's thought leadership on critical global development issues, including the rise of UCGs in Africa. The report captures the views of 8,000 citizens across Africa who had either experienced recent UCGs<sup>26</sup> or contexts of democratic consolidation.<sup>27</sup> This **unique people-centred dataset** informed critical insights for preventing future coups and fostering transformative change in affected regions. The report makes a case for a forward-looking approach and views the structural causes of UCGs through a development-focused lens, advocating for the protection of human rights, restoration of democracy and advancement of sustainable peace.

Ongoing **analysis and knowledge sharing** is essential for informed decision-making and strategic planning. The *AFSIT Monitor* provides quarterly analysis of Africa's transition contexts, highlights entry points for AFSIT implementation, and disseminates relevant knowledge products and key events. The first edition (August 2023) included a special focus on Niger, while also considering opportunities for AFSIT in Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea and Mali. The second edition (October 2023) provided an update on the situations in Gabon and Niger and focused on the new alliance of three West African countries that have undergone recent UCGs. These detailed reports underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous engagement with Africa's dynamic political landscapes.

## Promoting awareness and collaboration

Recognizing the importance of a development-centric approach to preventing violent extremism (PVE) beyond a prevalent focus on security measures, partnerships with various organizations shaped a **global campaign of PVE-related knowledge and outreach events**. These included a media briefing (reaching over 800 global mentions within 72 hours), launching the *PVE Series Studies* at the AU Summit, a policy dialogue in Geneva, discussions in Tokyo, and engaging over 30 stakeholders on PVE strategies in the Hague. UNDP's commitment to research and policy extended to participation at numerous high-level PVE-related engagements. These included the Munich Security Conference, the MEAC Evidence and Learning Conference, the Seventh meeting of the Secretary-General's High-Level Action Group on PVE, the Vienna-hosted Parliamentary Assemblies' Coordination Mechanism Meeting and Policy Dialogue on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, and the International Research Conference 2023.

The **media strategy on PVE** was multifaceted, integrating policy dialogues and direct media engagement to effectively communicate research findings, calls to action and success stories. The *Journey to Extremism (2023)* report generated over 800 mentions and reached an approximate audience of 2 billion people within 72 hours. The #ExploringExtremism podcast series, a spin-off from the report, provided in-depth discussions on extremism's recruitment of children and the nexus of drugs, violence and extremist financing. A dedicated website — [journey-to-extremism.undp.org](https://journey-to-extremism.undp.org) — was launched in February 2023, with subsequent Arabic and French versions in February 2024. The website serves as a flagship digital hub for hosting the initiative's extensive resources and findings.

<sup>26</sup> Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, and Sudan.

<sup>27</sup> The Gambia, Ghana, and Tanzania.

## Empowering communities and building capacities

The Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) for the Lake Chad Basin **created security conditions for communities** (construction/rehabilitation of security infrastructures, including 32 gendarmeries, police stations and installing 2,245 streetlights, and training 2,000 security providers on human rights, gender-based violence and related criminal procedures) and **facilitated access to social services** (52 essential social service infrastructures, including schools and health centres, were built or rehabilitated and 108 public facilities equipped with renewable technology). The RSF also **facilitated access to clean water** (127 boreholes and several latrines were constructed), **contributed to livelihoods** by means of productive assets and business grants to women and youth (3,192 in total, including 1,585 women), and providing cash for work to 4,866 people (including 3,455 women) through public-interest activities.

To **illuminate the cultural and human experiences of borderland regions**, the ABC made storytelling a core element of its communication strategy, recognizing its immense power to connect, engage and inspire. Powerful narratives of change, hope and the tangible impact of development interventions were captured in the documentary series and the Africa Borderlands Podcast. These powerful products showcase the resilience of the people and the vibrant cultures that thrive in Africa's borderlands. They are a testament to the strength and perseverance of these communities, and provide a platform for unique stories that might otherwise remain untold.

To foster peace and stability across the Karamoja Cluster,<sup>28</sup> the ABC partnered with the Life & Peace Institute to **support community-driven peacebuilding initiatives, and allocated grants of \$15,000 to 19 community-based organizations.**

Applying the SDG Investor Map in African borderlands helped in **identifying and realizing SDG investment opportunities within borderland areas.** The SDG guidelines applied to borderlands will

promote private-sector investment, while country-level Investor Mapping exercises provide investors with a solid basis of data. The information supplied enables investors to identify opportunities in borderland areas like Nakonde in Zambia and Tudunma in Tanzania.

To fulfil the ABC objective of **developing reliable, cross-border data to address complex development challenges in African borderlands**, it convened the Borderlands Data Forum. Attracting over 90 participants from diverse sectors, the Forum focused on enhancing data collection, analysis and dissemination to inform policymaking in the region. This initiative addressed a critical gap in accessible data and also led to the launch of the pioneering African Borderlands Encyclopaedia — a comprehensive portal for borderlands data.

**The water and food crisis has been escalating in the Horn of Africa.** In response, the ABC collaborated with the World Bank Group, UNICEF, the Children Investment Funds Foundation and the governments of Netherlands and Ethiopia to develop a proposal and study the feasibility of a Groundwater Access Facility. Such a facility would unlock the potential of the region's vast, untapped groundwater reservoirs to provide a sustainable water source.

The Accelerating the Ratification and Domestication of **AU Treaties project worked to make AU treaty information more accessible to the public in member states.** In Kenya and Senegal, the focus remained on enhancing the accessibility of treaty information through digital transformation. In Kenya, this involved developing an electronic database of ratified treaties, validating and uploading these treaties to a publicly accessible website, and training ministry colleagues to manage the site. Similarly, in Senegal, digitization of the treaty archives room was supported at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, facilitating easier dissemination of treaty documents.

<sup>28</sup> Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda.

To **empower individuals and organizations to contribute effectively to governance and anti-corruption initiatives** in Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Burkina Faso, the AU Treaties project maintained a focus on capacity building and empowerment. In Mozambique, women's political participation was promoted, with 150 participants engaged to enhance women's roles in the electoral process. In São Tomé and Príncipe, understanding and dissemination of the AU Treaty on Preventing and Fighting Corruption among CSOs were enhanced. In Burkina Faso, the High Authority for State Control and the Fight against Corruption and CSOs built their understanding on using innovative tools to track and report corruption, fostering collaboration between public structures and civil society.

In 2023, UNDP Stabilization Academy launched its fifth and sixth cohorts **to enhance the knowledge and skills of stabilization teams**. The Academy covers the importance of partnerships, the three pillars of stabilization (community security, social service infrastructure and local economy), as well as human rights and gender equality. The two cohorts included 90 trainees from the Lake Chad<sup>29</sup> and Liptako-Gourma countries,<sup>30</sup> as well as Ethiopia, Mozambique and Somalia. The cohorts were inaugurated by high-level officials who emphasized the critical role of adaptive and context-sensitive approaches to stabilization.

To promote localization in stabilization, as a precursor to the 4<sup>th</sup> Lake Chad Basin Governors Forum, UNDP Stabilization Academy led a CSO Forum. The Forum gathered representatives of 24 organizations from the four RSF-supported countries.<sup>31</sup> Using NORCAP's innovative 'sprint' methodology, the Forum fostered co-creation and identification of achievements, success factors and challenges. It also explored opportunities to address these challenges and developed policy and advocacy recommendations. The resulting CSO declaration was presented at the opening ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> Governors Forum.

As part of its overall support in building CSO capacities to effectively participate in the implementation of the **Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience (RS-SRR) in the Lake Chad region**, UNDP Stabilization Academy worked with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, GIZ and the AUC to conduct a participatory mental health and psycho-social support training for CSOs in the four RSF-supported countries.<sup>32</sup> The training created a network of community-based mental health service providers to support humanitarian assistance. Following the training, participating CSOs developed action plans, with ongoing support from GIZ for implementation.

## Empowering strategic thinking and planning

Anticipating the potential negative effects of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) withdrawal, AFSIT launched its first Assessment Mission to Mali to **identify and assess the priorities and needs of the transition's stakeholders, and entry points for AFSIT support**. Key findings included limited progress in implementing the 2015 Peace Agreement, economic fragility linked to sanctions, security as a top priority of the authorities, and a need for more balance between military and non-military approaches to security challenges.

In response to an evolving and multi-faceted elections context across AU member states, the Africa Election Fund **supported strategic and crisis communications by election management bodies (EMBs)**. In partnership with the AUC Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, a continental workshop was held on Strategic and Crisis Communication. Heads of communication from EMBs and CSO representatives from 39 sub-Saharan African countries discussed challenges and opportunities, with many EMBs in need of new or updated communication strategies, or related support.

<sup>29</sup> Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon.

<sup>30</sup> Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali.

<sup>31</sup> Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria.

<sup>32</sup> Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria.





Soldiers and Citizens launch, July 2023, Nairobi Kenya.  
© UNDP Africa

“Amid growing instability, our peace initiatives empowered communities in conflict-affected regions, fostering democratic resilience and sustainable peace through innovative solutions and partnerships.”

As documented in the *Journey to Extremism* (2023) report, vulnerability to violent extremism is often compounded by a lack of socio-economic opportunities. Responding to this, the Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in the Atlantic Corridor project **supported several African countries to enhance socio-economic conditions and reduce radicalization risks**. These interventions focused on strengthening early warning systems, building community resilience and fostering counter-narratives to violent extremism. Specifically, 76 members from 13 local civil-military cells in Côte d’Ivoire and 38 stakeholders in Togo participated in workshops to boost civil-military cooperation and assess early warning capacities. In Northern Ghana, 174 individuals were trained to improve local response strategies.

Additionally, 196 stakeholders across four countries participated in community immersion workshops to co-design economic opportunities, while 488 individuals engaged in projects to address violent extremist narratives. Moreover, awareness campaigns to boost community knowledge and resilience against extremist influences reached 23,000 people in Ghana and Burkina Faso.

## Promoting youth involvement and human rights

The organization of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Regional Multifunctional Youth Forum was supported, engaging 45 young peacebuilders from 12 countries of the region, along with UN entities, in political and peacebuilding processes. The **exchange of experiences**, development of alliances, and creation of advocacy strategies for peace and tolerance contributed significantly to the inclusion and role of young people in peace, security, development and governance. **Training** sessions provided participants with a deep understanding of peace concepts, specialized skills in advocacy and effective communication for peacebuilding. The forum concluded with a **strategic review and planning session**, which assessed progress and developed a five-year strategy, integrating cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and climate change into the peace and security context of the Great Lake Region.

## Promoting synchronicity within the development ecosystem

The **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium of the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries**, supported under the new AEF, was a critical platform for addressing challenges to democracy in the SADC region. The event, themed ‘Striving for Credible, Inclusive and Transparent elections in the SADC region’, took place alongside the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC’s 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference and Anniversary, and was attended by 262 electoral commissioners and officials. Discussions on enhancing the credibility, inclusivity and transparency of elections were facilitated, with key deliberations focusing on comprehensive strategies for voter engagement and integrity throughout the electoral cycle. Addressing

digital threats, including social media, was also discussed. These efforts aim to bolster electoral integrity and trust across the region, reflecting UNDP’s commitment to supporting robust electoral systems.

To **integrate international best practices into electoral processes**, the AEF partnered with ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions and the AUC to organize the annual symposium, titled ‘Institutionalizing lesson-learning processes for improved electoral administration’. The AEF role was instrumental in facilitating discussions among the 80 participants, which included EMBs, thematic experts and CSOs. Key topics included the strategic timing of post-electoral reviews to reduce tensions and the importance of inclusive consultations for effective electoral reforms.

To **address the dynamic and transnational nature of violent extremism and bolster a harmonized regional approach**, UNDP initiated the Atlantic Corridor Project, to be implemented from 2023 to 2025. Recognizing the gaps between regional policy and practice on PVE, the project established a sub-regional Community of Practice. This initiative will enhance regional capabilities through focused research and cross-border analysis of violent extremism. In collaboration with the ABC, a Spotlight Initiative report is being developed, and a comprehensive stakeholder mapping has been completed.

A Community of Practice is to be launched in 2024 to further strengthen sub-regional analysis and collaboration.

The developmental approach to PVE adopted by UNDP focuses on states' ability to draw on and involve diverse stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of preventive measures. National action plans are key for **guiding a coordinated PVE response that spans from the national to the local level**. To extend PVE programming beyond security actors, four national country support packages were implemented,<sup>33</sup> focused on strengthening national PVE coordination and capacities in target countries. The packages serve as a basis to develop, coordinate and effectively implement PVE interventions at the national, sub-regional and local levels.

To **enhance rights and accountability in development within lusophone Africa**,<sup>34</sup> the Business and Human Rights initiative collaborated with the AfDB Group's Independent Review Mechanism, ActionAid International, the Business in Human Rights Resource Centre and the government of Mozambique. This led to a workshop that elevated awareness and understanding of rights, rooted in international human rights norms and institutional safeguards. The workshop also facilitated a knowledge exchange on a rights-based approach to development, and assisted participants in mapping and engaging with accountability instruments and mechanisms.

## Integrating best practices and strengthening governance

The African Business and Human Rights Forum 2023 brought together a wide array of stakeholders from local, regional, continental and international levels to discuss the progress, challenges, and opportunities **for promoting responsible business practices and human rights in Africa**.

Convened by the AU and co-organized by UNDP and UN partners, the forum focused on local perspectives and solutions with the theme *For Africa, From Africa*. Key discussions centred around AfCFTA and responsible business, implications of EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, respecting human rights in the informal economy, resource governance, business and technology, and protection of vulnerable and marginalized groups in the context of business.

**To foster collaboration and networking among youth in the context of Ethiopia's peace and security**, the Workshop on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) was organized by UNDP project supporting the ICGLR Regional Multifunctional Youth Forum, together with the Ethiopian UN RCO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The workshop trained 43 participants (selected from over 400 applications) from youth-focused organizations. The training in conflict analysis, sensitivity and inclusivity approaches also facilitated their access to the Ethiopia Peace Building Network knowledge repository. Participants initiated peacebuilding intervention mapping and were invited to join the Ethiopian Peace Building Network and its YPS Task Force. The collaborations and networking opportunities created a foundation for ongoing partnerships in peace and security efforts in Ethiopia.

<sup>33</sup> Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo.

<sup>34</sup> Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo.

# 05



© UNDP Africa- African Union Headquarters.

# Partnerships

In an increasingly interconnected world, African nations often face challenges that cross national borders, requiring cooperative and coordinated approaches.

Positioned at the critical intersection of national and regional efforts, the Regional Programme for Africa is uniquely equipped to tackle transboundary issues. By leveraging strategic partnerships, fostering innovation and securing robust financial support, the programme addresses complex challenges that individual countries are unable to manage alone.

## Strategic partnerships

UNDP recognizes the critical role of partnerships and African thought leadership in shaping global development and peace agendas. UNDP also acknowledges the pivotal role of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities in fostering regional integration, capacity building, resource mobilization, policy coordination, peace and security efforts, and advocacy across the continent. By working with the AU and RECs, the Regional Programme is able to leverage regional dynamics to effectively address common development challenges, provide technical assistance and support for regional development initiatives, attract funding for sustainable projects, harmonize policies, contribute to conflict prevention, and raise awareness about key development issues. Together, these synergies play a crucial role in advancing inclusive and sustainable development agendas in Africa.

## Catalyst for innovation

The Regional Programme not only addresses immediate challenges, but also serves as a catalyst for innovation and an incubator for new initiatives.

This role helps pioneer new approaches and solutions that can be scaled and replicated across the region, driving sustainable development and positive change. By working with other UN agencies, CSOs, NGOs, private sector, think tanks and academic institutions, the Regional Programme is able to compound comparative advantages and drive the development of new innovative solutions, further strengthening UNDP's position as a partner of choice.

## Funding and financial support

UNDP and the Regional Programme for Africa rely primarily on traditional partners for funding. These resources are a major source of income for both the Regional Programme and Country Offices in Africa. The Regional Programme is mainly funded by core resources, with substantial contributions from the European Union, Sweden, Germany, Netherlands and Japan. This financial support is crucial for maintaining and expanding the programme's impactful initiatives.

---

**In 2023, the Regional Programme for Africa worked with 273 partners, including 46 financial partners, and implemented 24 projects and 15 initiatives, 4 of which were new.**



## Strategic partnerships

### African Union and Africa Adaptation Initiative



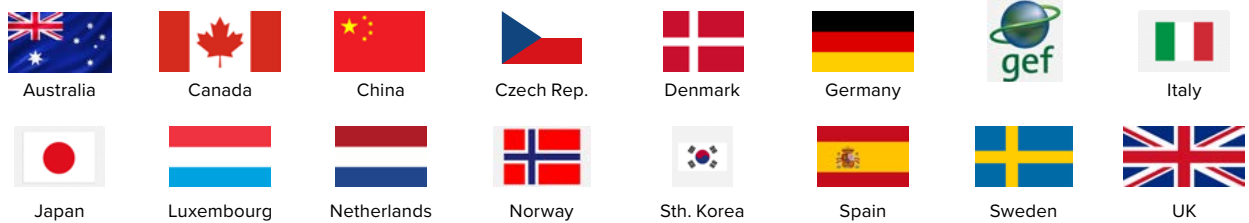
### RECs/RMs



### IFIs



### Donors



### UN



# 06



Expo Day, Ghana



# Gender mainstreaming

Inequalities between women and men — as well as between young women, young men, girls and boys — challenge the development of African countries at both national and regional levels. Therefore, gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women are central to all Regional Programme for Africa's initiatives. This year, the Programme focused on embedding gender considerations at the core of its efforts, promoting inclusivity across all projects and boosting the economic empowerment of women.

## Gender mainstreaming and inclusion

The Regional Programme consistently prioritized gender considerations and inclusivity at all stages. Key highlights include the Sahel Resilience Project's partnership with UN Women, engaging women-led CSOs across all seven Sahelian countries. The ICGLR Regional Multifunctional Youth Forum and Inclusive Growth initiative addressed gender disparities by involving women in project activities, reviews and as trainers. The Strengthening National Climate Finance Governance Systems to Reduce Poverty, Inequality, and Vulnerability in Africa initiative also enhanced the capacity of African Group of Negotiators (AGN) and civil society to mainstream and strengthen climate action and gender priorities.

Similarly, the Local Multidimensional Poverty Index prioritized women and youth during data collection, while the Community-Based Social Protection Regional Report emphasized elevating the voices of women and youth.

Projects such as Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in the Atlantic Corridor and the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Evidence-Base Studies and Partner Engagement were grounded in gender-sensitive analyses and needs assessments, while the AU Treaties project was guided by its own gender mainstreaming strategy. Youth-focused initiatives like the YPS Hackathon and the AfYWL Fellowship Programme specifically prioritize young women.

## Empowerment and economic opportunities

Several projects focused on **empowering women and expanding their economic opportunities**.

The RSF of Lake Chad Basin targeted women for livelihood activities, with women comprising 62% of cash-for-work beneficiaries and 50% of business grant recipients.

The Integrated Approach Pilot Programme for Food Security in Malawi applied interventions aimed at empowering women, aiming for a 60% women participation rate and providing alternative incomes through agricultural activities. The Digital Registration System for Informal Enterprises benefited MSMEs, with 31% being women-led in Gabon, while initiatives like Meet the Toshikas and the SME Financing Framework specifically supported women entrepreneurs. The Tax for SDGs in Africa initiative included gender targets into its Country Engagement Plans and collaborated closely with the Gender Project.

The ASFH integrated gender considerations into financing processes, helping governments to target women's needs and mainstream gender equality into systems where it was previously absent. For instance, ASFH explored issuing gender-specific funding to provide women-led MSMEs with better access to finance. Additionally, the Promoting Inclusive Intra-African Trade project supported women-led SMEs. Collectively, these efforts aimed to enhance women's economic participation and provide opportunities for financial independence and growth.

---

# 62%

of cash-for-work beneficiaries in the RSF for the Lake Chad Basin are women.

**“Women’s inclusion can forge a better world, because when women are included and empowered, the entire society benefits from their contributions and development gains are increased.”**

Achim Steiner  
UNDP Administrator

# 07





# Intra-project collaborations

**Intra-project synergies within the Regional Programme for Africa played a critical role in the achievement of effective outcomes and maximizing the results of individual projects. These synergies, achieved through collaboration and the integration of expertise offered by different projects, resulted in enhanced efficiency and the application of multi-dimensional approaches to complex tasks, while avoiding a duplication of efforts.**

## **Integrated approaches to knowledge management**

The Community-Based Social Protection Regional Report, as well as the Local Multidimensional Poverty Index, both benefited significantly from an integrated approach and, in particular, the expertise of the ASFH work on inclusive growth. These cross-thematic collaborations enriched the reports with diverse perspectives and insights. The Africa Green Business and Financing Initiative (AGBFI) was boosted through collaboration with other UNDP projects involved in environmental sustainability and climate action. The 2023 AGBFI flagship

report incorporated analyses and insights from other projects, enriching its content and ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the region's green and climate initiatives.

The AFSH worked closely with the Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) and the Crisis Bureau Governance teams to effectively develop a draft for a local finance service offer for Africa, encompassing tax, budgeting and financing strategies at the local level. Similarly, collaboration between the Tax for SDGs in Africa initiative and the Gender Team was key in designing the global dialogue on taxation and gender equality. The partnership also extends to an ongoing regional research paper on the same topic.

## Collaborations towards capacity building

In the Lake Chad Basin, particularly in Cameroon and Burkina Faso, the RSF fostered effective synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund and other initiatives, such as the Social Cohesion and Security project, to avoid duplication. In Cameroon, this was achieved through coordinated capacity building activities, while in Burkina Faso, the RSF collaborated with the Local Governance project on livelihood activities and the issuance of civil status certificates. Similarly, collaboration with the Social Cohesion and Security project facilitated the organization of mobile court hearings.

Synergies between the Inclusive Growth and the Gender teams were crucial in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. This led to the effective integration of inclusive growth and gender topics into capacity-building programmes, such as the two-day webinar on trade agreements, policies and programmes for RECs, member states, CSOs and academic institutions. The collaboration was also critical in the roll-out of the Gender Responsive Economic Policy Management Initiative training for RECs and member states.

The ICGLR Regional Multifunctional Youth Forum significantly benefited from its synergy with the YouthConnekt programme. This led to a notable increase in youth nominations and attendance at project events, which greatly enhanced the project's youth outreach and engagement. The partnership also enriched the diversity and inclusivity of the forum's initiatives.

The Regional Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel (RPYES) benefited greatly from strategic collaborations with various initiatives and projects. RPYES collaborated with YouthConnekt to amplify youth empowerment efforts across the Sahel region. Additionally, RPYES actively participated in the UNISS-led brainstorming meeting. The meeting focused on implementing the Sahelian Girl's Charter, which aims to empower young girls through targeted advocacy activities and programmes, thereby enhancing their opportunities and rights. These partnerships broadened the scope of its empowerment initiatives.

## Programmatic and policy-enriching synergies

The Sahel Resilience Project fostered cross-team and cross-thematic collaboration with several UNDP offices. These included the Climate and Energy Team, Gender Team and the Inclusive Growth Team based in the RSCA, the Governance Team in Dakar, the RSF, the Africa Caribbean Pacific-Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme team, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building resilience Team of the Crisis Bureau, and the ASFH. For example, the project enhanced its own results by utilizing the District Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review reports from Burkina Faso and Niger, along with other documents like the Development Finance Assessment and INFF roadmaps developed across 25 African countries. Collaborations were also beneficial in the conceptualization and development of the ECOWAS Resilience Strategy.

The collaboration between the ASFH and the Gender Team for the organization of the SDG budgeting workshop in Mali facilitated the integration of gender considerations into national financing strategies. This helped to ensure that gender equality became a central component of financial planning and resource allocation. The ASFH also collaborated with the Climate Team during the SDG budgeting workshop in Mali to identify joint support areas in Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Mali. This collaboration enhanced the integration of climate considerations into financial planning, leading to more comprehensive and effective strategies for achieving both financial and environmental sustainability.

Partnerships utilizing the ASFH Investment Mapping played a key role in identifying SDG investment opportunities areas across various teams. For instance, collaboration with the ASFH allowed the ABC to utilize the SDG Investor Map in African borderlands to identify investment opportunities related to the SDGs. The Map has also been applied in fragile contexts, including the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin and Horn of Africa.

The Tax for SDGs in Africa initiative has thrived thanks to synergies between the INFF initiative and the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Team. By integrating findings and policy reforms from the Development Finance Assessments and Integrated Financing Strategies of the INFFs into its country-engagement plans, the project ensured alignment and effective implementation.

Inter-project collaboration significantly enhanced PVE efforts. The two PVE projects — Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in the Atlantic Corridor; and Prevention of Violent Extremism Evidence-Base Studies and Partner Engagement — Building Knowledge-Based Partnership — drew on lessons from previous PVE projects (2016–2021), as well as the project titled 'Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa and the Arab States: A Development Approach (2022–2025)'. These collaborations provided valuable insights, resources and continuity. This enhanced the projects' ability to tackle violent extremism through evidence-based studies, robust partner engagement and a comprehensive, knowledge-based approach.

A key advantage of the synergy between the Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in the Atlantic Corridor project and the ABC was the development of the Spotlight Initiative report. This partnership leveraged ABC's expertise in borderland dynamics, enriching the report with in-depth insights to foster a better understanding of violent extremism in the region.

### **Synergies for the AfCFTA**

The Business and Human Rights initiative was strengthened through collaboration with the Promoting Inclusive Intra-African Trade through the AfCFTA to Accelerate Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development in Africa project. A primary theme of the 2023 African Business and Human Rights Forum was the roll-out of the AfCFTA and its implications for business and human rights. This collaboration allowed the Business and Human Rights project to leverage the AfCFTA team's expertise and resources, enhancing its ability to address these implications effectively.

The Integrated Approach Pilot Programme for Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa has significantly benefited from collaborating with the ASFH. Leveraging the ASFH experience, expertise and work on MSMEs' finance, value chain development and green business, the project gained valuable insights and resources.

The project Promoting Inclusive Intra-African trade through the AfCFTA to Accelerate Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development in Africa collaborated with the Gender Team to deliver capacity-building programmes to SMEs and support to the AfCFTA Secretariat. Furthermore, collaboration between the AfCFTA and the Inclusive Growth projects contributed to the successful organization of the regional workshop to operationalize the ECCAS Network of Women Entrepreneurs. This led to the ECCAS Women Entrepreneurs' Network being operationalized, and enhanced capacities among women entrepreneurs to engage in AfCFTA regional dialogues.

---

# 270 m

The collaboration between ASFH and ABC significantly amplified the impact of the SDG Investor Map in African borderlands, helping identify investment opportunities for 270 million people living in these regions.

# 08



# Digital solutions and innovation

**Innovative practices were applied across various projects and contributed significantly to the results of the Regional Programme for Africa. These practices illustrate the diverse ways that digital tools, data utilization, knowledge sharing, and ecosystem approaches are being leveraged to effectively address complex development challenges.**

## Digital data

The use of digital tools and platforms that focus on the use of data has been key in advancing various projects and initiatives across Africa, enhancing efficiency, accessibility and stakeholder engagement.

The Integration of SDGs and Agenda 2063 initiative utilized the SDG Diagnostics online platform. This made a large part of the work accessible in the digital space, enhancing transparency and ease of access. The RSF of Lake Chad Basin developed an online geographic information system (GIS) information-sharing platform to facilitate the dissemination of stabilization achievements, which aids in real-time information access for all stakeholders. In a similar vein, the Local

Multidimensional Poverty Index project drew on KoboToolBox and ChatGPT for qualitative data analysis, demonstrating the innovative use of digital tools for data collection and analysis.

The Tax for SDGs in Africa initiative focused on the digitalization of tax administration, streamlining tax processes for better efficiency.

The AU Treaties Project maximized the use of technology to digitize treaties and treaty registries, ensuring easy access and the management of legal documents. Similarly, the UNISS Implementation Support Unit leveraged digitalization in project documents and communication products, enhancing their reach and impact.



## Knowledge sharing and capacity building

With the aim of knowledge - sharing and capacity building, several initiatives effectively **leveraged digital tools and innovative approaches to enhance learning, engagement and collaboration.**

The Sahel Resilience Project launched an online course on Health Disaster Recovery Needs Assessment and Recovery Planning in collaboration with Partners Enhancing Resilience of People Exposed to Risks (PERIPERI U) and other international organizations. This initiative serves as a learning platform to share insights and best practices.

The ICGLR Regional Multifunctional Youth Forum utilized a hackathon format, developed a phone application, and integrated AI technology to address security challenges, thereby fostering youth engagement through digital means. The Stabilization Academy and CSO Engagement established two knowledge management platforms, namely the Geospatial Information Stabilization Platform and Lake Chad Basin Commission Community Connect, enhancing information-sharing and collaboration among stakeholders.

The ASFH facilitated the validation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation good practices through the launch of its own data visualization tool, which showcased UNDP's global, regional and country-level practices. The ASFH capacity-building of African young entrepreneurs included the creation of a South-South platform for sub-Saharan African policymakers, practitioners, and young innovators and entrepreneurs to exchange information with Chinese counterparts. It also supported unlocking private capital for SMEs through solutions like the Agri-Fintech Accelerator and the Sustainable Digital Fund Mobilization Platform.

The Carbon Market and Energy initiative collaborated with the World Bank and developed a digital carbon registry, while the Prevention of Violent Extremism Evidence-Based Studies and Partner Engagement initiative employed innovative social media engagements to enhance its reach and impact.

The Strengthening National Climate Finance Governance Systems project developed a Digital Monitoring Reporting and Verification System to support NDC reporting to the UNFCCC.

The Promoting Inclusive Intra-African Trade through the AfCFTA project positions MSMEs to trade across African borders through digital platforms. This is enabled by a mapping of digital platforms in countries, enabling MSMEs to better understand the modalities for digital cross-border transactions, including onboarding pathways. In its pilot stages, the initiative aims to assess the extent of digitalization of government channels for the completion of AfCFTA formalities to facilitate the trade of goods.

The Meet the Toshikas and the Integrated Approach Pilot Programme for Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa projects both aim to promote innovative approaches. While the efforts of the former are aimed at enhancing innovative entrepreneurship, the latter adopted and scaled up six innovations across various national projects. This included the use of AflaSafe to reduce aflatoxin in groundnuts in Malawi, the adoption of drought-tolerant certified sorghum seed in Tanzania, and the use of polythene to conserve water in composts in Burkina Faso.

## Evidence-based interventions

To enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of the Regional Programme's results, several initiatives have been grounded in evidence-based approaches. The RSF of the Lake Chad Basin developed conflict sensitivity analysis tools that enabled national windows to take conflict sensitivity into account more effectively when implementing interventions. The Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in the Atlantic Corridor (2023–2025) project conducted baseline studies to build an evidence base for country-specific interventions, pioneering pilot activities that respond to immediate needs and support peace infrastructure capacities.

Similarly, the (AFSIT) developed a digital report and the *AFSIT Monitor* to track and support transitions, foster democratic renewal and promote inclusive governance. The Integrated Approach Pilot Programme for Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa supported the establishment of a digital platform for interacting with various users, including farmers and village-based agricultural advisors (VBAs). The Community-Based Social Protection Regional Report is accompanied by the creation of a corresponding database.

The Supporting Informal Enterprises Transition Towards Sustainable Growth and Formalization project applied an ecosystem development approach to support informal enterprises' growth and formalization.

@ 2023 UNDP WACA



---

“Growing up, I realized that there were genuine needs in many areas, especially in education. We should make technology accessible to as many people as possible because it makes life easier,”

Mohamed Lemine  
Computer Engineer and Co-Founder  
of Rim Academy, Mauritania

# Meet our people

**Jide Martyns Okeke**

Regional Programme Coordinator



**Maia Gartland Hoff**

Associate Reporting Officer



**Sophia Abra**

Partnerships Coordination Specialist



**Gopi Chandra Kharel**

Digital Communications Officer



**Fatma Ahmed**

Capacity Development Specialist



**Ayda Labassi**

Digital Communications Officer



**Mendi Michelle Muita**

Regional Communications Specialist



**Alix Cho**

Knowledge Management Specialist



**Morning John Lokule**

Regional Programme  
Management Analyst



**Lisa Bachir**

Reporting Officer



**Kudakwashe Chingono**

Programme Analyst, AfYWL  
Fellowship Programme



**Adja Sy**

African Young Women Leaders Fellow



**Betelihem Teklu**

Programme Implementation Analyst



# Annex 1.

## List of partners

### African Union (AU)

---

AfCFTA Secretariat	Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS)
Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)	
African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)	New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency
African Union Border Programme (AUBP)	Office of Strategic Planning and Delivery (OSPD)
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE)	Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC)
Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)	Peace and Security Council (PSC)
Department of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, Minerals (ETTİM)	Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE) Directorate
Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS)	The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
	Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD)

### CSOs/NGOs/Local Community

---

ACEEN	Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement à la Base (ANADEB) (Togo)
ACHDR	
Action Against Hunger	Agency for Cross Border Pastoralists Development (APaD)
Action Aid	AGIR ONG (Benin)
Action for Development (AfD)	ALDEPA
Adamawa women-led CSOs network	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
ADC	AP2D
African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)	APSELPA
African Coalition for Corporate Accountability (ACCA)	Association des femmes Peulhs (Cote d'Ivoire)
African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP)	Association Le Réseau
	Association les Championnes de l'Atacora (LCA)
	Association pour le Développement et Paix (Benin)

Associazione di cooperazione e solidarietà internazionale (LVIA)	Groupement des femmes veuves de Ferke (Cote d'Ivoire)
Ateker Foundation, South Sudan Chapter	Haute Autorité de l'Audiovisuel et de la Communication (HACA) (Cote d'Ivoire)
Borno Women Development initiative (BOWDI)	Iles de Paix (Benin)
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRCC)	Innovative Development Initiative (IDI)
CAFDEL/Femmes	Integrated Community Peace and Development Organization (ICPDO)
Care International	JVE International
Care International Niger	Karamoja Development Forum (KDF)
CEDELAC/jeunes	Kenya Coalition on Youth Peace and Security
CELIAF	Kilimo Trust
Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique (CGD) (Burkina Faso)	KOMESI Women's Network
Changement Social Bénin	LARASSU
Coalition Nationale pour la Paix (Benin)	Life and Peace Institute (LPI)
CODAS Caritas Yagoua	LINK2007
Comité de gestion des conflits (Cote d'Ivoire)	Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization (LOKADO)
Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH) (Cote d'Ivoire)	Manna Development Agency (MADA)
Conseil national de la jeunesse (Benin)	Mouvement Burkinabè des droits de l'homme et des peuples (MBDHP)
Conseil national de la Jeunesse (Togo)	National Youth Council (Ghana)
Conseil national des Jeunes (Cote d'Ivoire)	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)
Conseil national des Jeunes du Burkina Faso	Network of CSOs in Borno
Cordaid	Network of Yobe Women-led CSOs
DanChurchAid (DCA)	Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
Dedras (Benin)	NORCAP
DEMI-E	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Elman Peace and Human Rights Center	Omo's Morningstar Children (OMC)
Environnement Coeur du Développement (ECD)	OXFAM
FHI 360	Plan International
Fulbe Association (Ghana)	Plateforme des Organisations de la Société civile pour la Promotion de la Paix dans le Gulmu (POSC/PPG) du Burkina Faso
Ghana (OTI USAID)	Radio Al Hadaba de Karal
Ghana Creative Associates	
Give1Project	
Groupe de travail, Femmes, Jeunes, Paix et Sécurité de la CEDEAO (Togo)	



Radio Kadaye de Bol	Equality Now
Réseau des femmes pour le développement au Togo (REFED)	SOS Children's Village
Réseau des jeunes du bassin du Lac Tchad	Sustainable Approaches for Community Empowerment (SAPCONE)
Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour les Objectifs de Développement Durable (R- ODD)	Tax Justice Network Africa
Réseau des organisations féminines du Lac Tchad	The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
Réseau pour l'Intégration des Femmes des ONG et Associations Africaines (Benin)	The International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP)
RIKOLTO	Today for Tomorrow Foundation
Root of Generations	Tony Elumelu Foundation
Save the Children	Turkana Pastoralists Development Organization (TUPADO)
Sikom Peace Network for Development Pokot Youth Bunge County Forum (PYBCF)	Warrior Squad Foundation (WSF)
Social Watch Bénin	West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)
Société du Développement du Lac (SODELAC)	Women in Borderlands Network
SOLIDARIDAD	World Vision
Solidarity for African Womens Right's (SOAWR) -	

## Donors

---

Australia	Luxembourg
Canada	Netherlands
China	Norway
Czech Republic	South Korea
Denmark	Spain
European Union (EU)	Sweden
Germany	United Kingdom
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	
Italy	
Japan	

## International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

---

Africa Development Bank (AfDB)	Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	

## Private Sector

---

Acelera Angola	Keyya Agromercado Digital
Acumen Resilient Agriculture Fund	Lapo Microfinance
Africa Climate Ventures	Milele Agro
African Green Infrastructure Investment Bank	M-Pesa
AGRIPROMO	Musoma Food Company Limited
Agro-Input Suppliers Limited (AISL)	NAFASO
Apex Bank	Namburi
ASA	National Chambers of Commerce and Patronat
Banca Etica	Natural Eco Capital
BongoHive	NMB Bank
Catalyst Fund	Old Mutual Malawi
CLIKAFRIK SARL	Organisation for Women in Trade
CRDB Bank	Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI)
Dinovate Solutions	Samurai Incubate Africa
Dream Chaser	SMR
Ecobank	Social Impact Solutions (SIPS)
Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry	Technology Seed Incubation Co. Ltd.
Fortune Gardens	
Fund for Export Development in Africa	
Global Center on Adaption (GCA)	
Grindstome	
Kawi Safi Fund	

## Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs / RMs)

COMESA	OACPS
EAC	SADC
ECCAS	Southern African Customs Union
ECOWAS	West African Economic and Monetary Union
IGAD	

## Research Institutions

Africa Borderlands Research Network (ABORNE)	Royal Danish Defense College
African Leadership University	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
American University of Nigeria	The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
Chatham House	The JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development
Clingendael Institute	The South Centre
Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)	The Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC)
Dansk Institut For Internationale Studier (DIIS)	United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)
Enhancing Pastoralist Research & Development Alternatives (EPaRDA)	United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)	University of Venda
Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA) (Burkina Faso)	Wilson Center
Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA), Leiden University	
International Centre for Counter-terrorism (ICCT)	
John Hopkins University	
Nordic Africa Institute	
Raoul Wellenberg Institute (RWI)	

## United Nations

FAO	OCHA
IFAD	OHCHR
ILO	UN Habitat
IOM	UN Office of the Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region
ITC	UN Women

UNAIDS	UNICEF
UNCDF	UNIDO
UNCTAD	UNODC
UNECA	UNOPS
UNEP	UNOWAS
UNESCO	UNV
UNFCCC	WFP
UNFPA	WHO
UNHCR	

## Other

Advocates for International Development (A4ID)	The European External Action Service (EEAS)
African Group of Negotiators (AGN)	The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
African International Economic Law Network	The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
Borno State Chapter	The International Energy Agency (IEA)
Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI)	The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)
EU Department for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)	The International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
GIZ	The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	The Sahel Alliance
Groupement des Industriels du Togo (GITO)	The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
Hedayah	World Bank (Fragility, Conflict and Violence)
International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	World Energy Council
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development (YALDA)
Neem Foundation	
The Aswan Forum	
The Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA)	
The Coalition for the Sahel	
The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)	

# Annex 2.

## Financial reporting

### External funding and cost-sharing

Donor	Project	2023 Resources	Delivery
AfDB	Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	616,730 \$	913,074 \$
AUSTRALIA	Regional PVE Project	1,262,755 \$	
CANADA	Regional Gender Project	1,469,234 \$	1,616,500 \$
CZECH REPUBLIC	Regional PVE Project	227,970 \$	223,179 \$
	Liptako Gourma Stabilization Facility	400,000 \$	
DANISH	Regional PVE Project	610,188 \$	418,928 \$
DENMARK	Africa Borderlands Centre		578,189 \$
	Regional Programme on Climate Security in Western Sahel	5,238,087 \$	388,315 \$
EUROPEAN UNION	Support to Informal Enterprises Transition	3,029,393 \$	728,110 \$
	Liptako Gourma Stabilization Facility	2,136,445 \$	1,118,424 \$
UNITED KINGDOM - FCDO	Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	727,778 \$	929,492 \$
FUNDING WINDOW	Resilience Offer	137,246 \$	137,246 \$
	Inclusive Growth Portfolio	431,741 \$	430,983 \$
GERMANY	Africa Election Fund - Inception phase	3,247,584 \$	276,630 \$
	Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	204,000 \$	1,276,382 \$
	Liptako Gourma Stabilization Facility	144,868 \$	2,831,408 \$
	Regional PVE Project	795,054 \$	350,295 \$



## External funding and cost-sharing (continued)

Donor	Project	2023 Resources	Delivery
IFAD	Cross-cutting Capacity Building for Food Security	319,753 \$	313,426 \$
ISLAMIC DEVT BANK (IsDB)	EWASME	700,000 \$	447,369 \$
	Energy4Sahel Project	1,001,332 \$	106,220 \$
ITALY	Youth Empowerment in the Sahel	200,000 \$	601,522 \$
JAPAN	Liptako Gourma Stabilization Facility	3,065,870 \$	1,009,041 \$
	Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	138,428 \$	135,018 \$
	Regional Programme on Climate Security in Western Sahel	27,000 \$	
	Strengthening Africa's resilience and DRR in the Sahel	13,585 \$	
	Africa Borderlands Centre	33,183 \$	1,758 \$
MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND - LIPTAKO	Liptako Gourma Stabilization Facility	117,216 \$	(31,752) \$
MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND - SPOTLIGHT	Regional Gender Project	690,845 \$	682,632 \$
NETHERLANDS	Engagement and Initiations	31,028 \$	62,761 \$
	Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	150,000 \$	123,945 \$
	Liptako Gourma Stabilization Facility	95,436 \$	92,031 \$
	Regional PVE Project	67,752 \$	55,491 \$
NORWAY	Strengthening Africa's resilience and DRR in the Sahel	22,997 \$	
	Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	100,000 \$	105,354 \$
	Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism	444,828 \$	
NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL	Resilience Offer	31,988 \$	31,320 \$

## External funding and cost-sharing (continued)

Donor	Project	2023 Resources	Delivery
UN OFFICE FOR SPECIAL COORDINATION	ISU UNISS	650,000 \$	157,515 \$
SIDA	Africa Borderlands Centre	74,831 \$	172,201 \$
	African Union Treaties	1,159,409 \$	900,896 \$
	Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	31,963 \$	447,038 \$
	Regional PVE Project	13,926 \$	113 \$
	Strengthening Africa's resilience and DRR in the Sahel	1,291,969 \$	1,817,648 \$
SWITZERLAND	Cross-cutting Capacity Building for Food Security	6,793 \$	
UNFPA	Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	450,000 \$	48,902 \$
UNFPA-CSA	Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	70,044 \$	
UNICEF	Youth Empowerment in the Sahel	4,403,657 \$	
UNOPS	Rural Electrification in the Liptako-Gourma	8,600 \$	276,653 \$
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36,091,506</b>	<b>19,774,255</b>

## Delivery per project

Projects	Funding type		Total
	RP Core Funding Utilization	External Funding Utilization	
Accelerating the Ratification and Domestication of African Union Treaties	21,321.67 \$	900,895.92 \$	922,217.59 \$
Advancing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Africa	363,212.59 \$	2,299,132.63 \$	2,662,345.22 \$
Africa Borderlands Centre	1,871,607.60 \$	135,207.41 \$	2,006,815.01 \$

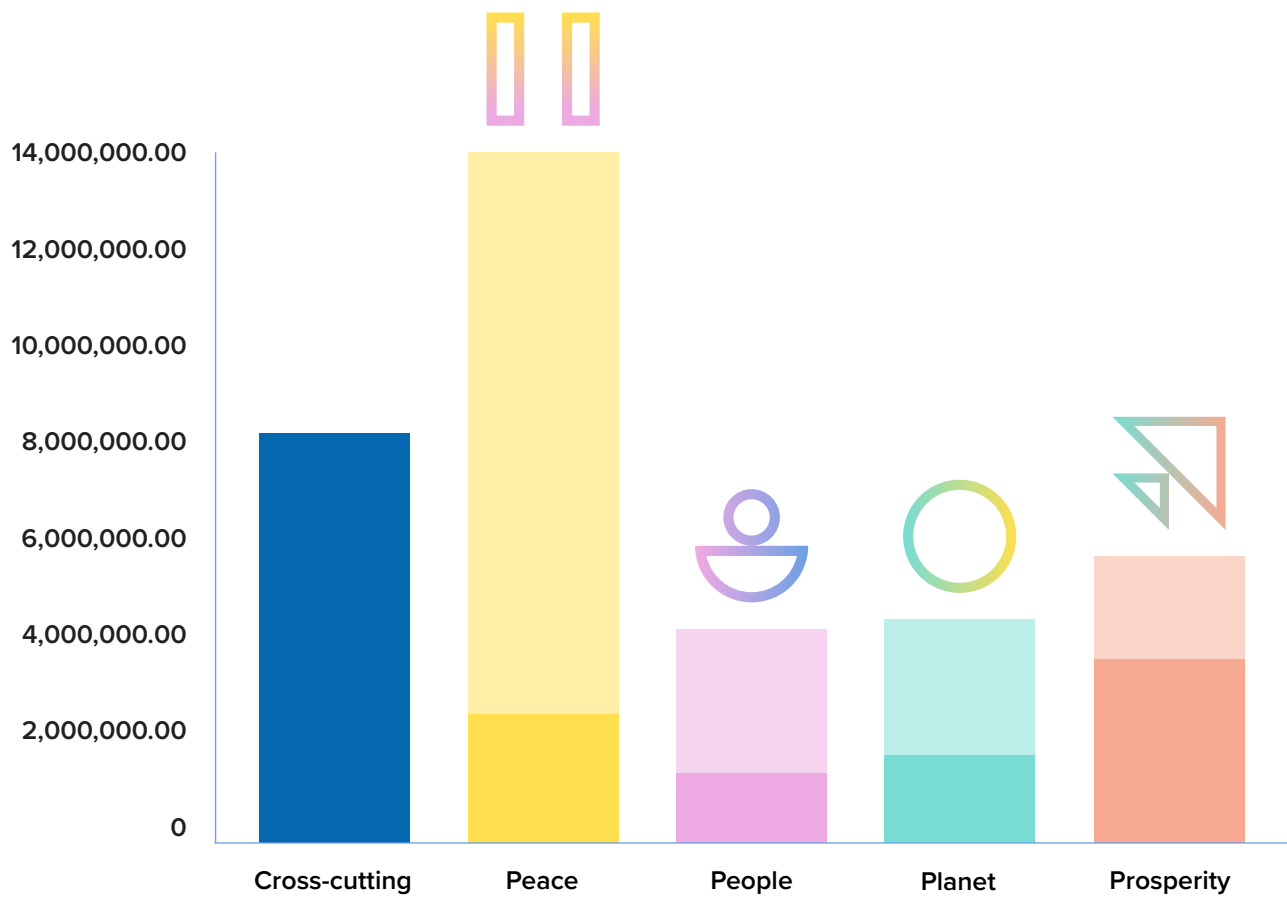
## Delivery per project (continued)

Projects	Funding type		Total
	RP Core Funding Utilization	External Funding Utilization	
Africa Election Fund - Inception Phase		276,629.88 \$	276,629.88 \$
Africa Leading 4th Industrial Revolution	169,046.10 \$		169,046.10 \$
Africa Sustainable Finance Sector Hub	1,225,165.61 \$		1,225,165.61 \$
Cross-cutting Capacity Building for Food Security	10,318.00 \$	313,425.96 \$	323,743.96 \$
Empowering West African Women Small and Medium Enterprises in Rice Value Chains (EWASME)	40,175.96 \$	447,368.64 \$	487,544.60 \$
Energy4Sahel Project	26,139.65 \$	106,219.80 \$	132,359.45 \$
Governance Promise for the Sahel	520,647.92 \$		520,647.92 \$
Inclusive Growth Portfolio Approach in Africa	459,278.40 \$	430,982.79 \$	890,261.19 \$
Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility	111,688.51 \$	3,979,203.89 \$	4,090,892.40 \$
Liptako Gourma Stabilization Facility		5,019,151.46 \$	5,019,151.46 \$
Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremisms: A Development Offer	39,675.60 \$	1,048,005.41 \$	1,087,681.01 \$
RBA (HQ, Addis Ababa, Dakar) Salaries and Common Services	1,507,750.32 \$		1,507,750.32 \$
Regional Programme on Climate Security in Western Sahel	183,182.98 \$	388,315.26 \$	571,498.24 \$
Regional Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel	83,818.03 \$	601,521.81 \$	685,339.84 \$
Regional Project to Support Oversight of the Regional Programme for Africa	6,779,991.86 \$	65,166.47 \$	6,845,158.33 \$

## Delivery per project (continued)

Projects	Funding type		Total
	RP Core Funding Utilization	External Funding Utilization	
Resilience Offer	520,633.72 \$	168,565.88 \$	689,199.60 \$
Southern Africa Adaptation Programme for Climate Resilience and Recovery of Agricultural Food Systems and Livelihoods	791,014.14 \$		791,014.14 \$
Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation for Resilience in the Sahel Region		1,817,647.97 \$	1,817,647.97 \$
Strengthening Climate Change Governance in Africa	261,496.63 \$		261,496.63 \$
Support for rural electrification by renewable energy systems in the Liptako-Gourma region		276,652.78 \$	276,652.78 \$
Support to Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement	1,226,075.28 \$		1,226,075.28 \$
Support to the Implementation of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)	603,217.04 \$	157,514.97 \$	760,732.01 \$
Supporting Inclusive Transitions in Africa	64,667.52 \$		64,667.52 \$
Supporting Informal Enterprises Transition Towards Sustainable Growth and Formalization in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Regions		728,109.76 \$	728,109.76 \$
Supporting the Upscaling of the YouthConnekt model in Africa	1,925.00 \$		1,925.00 \$
UNDP African Young Women Leaders Fellowship Programme	999,813.12 \$		999,813.12 \$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,881,863.25 \$</b>	<b>19,159,718.69 \$</b>	<b>37,041,581.94 \$</b>

## Regional Programme Delivery by Priority Area in 2023



External Funding Utilization (\$)	<b>65,166.47</b>	<b>11,359,093.97</b>	<b>2,900,654.44</b>	<b>2,757,401.69</b>	<b>2,077,402.12</b>
RP Core Funding Utilization (\$)	<b>8,287,742.18</b>	<b>2,629,608.82</b>	<b>1,448,768.74</b>	<b>1,782,467.12</b>	<b>3,733,276.39</b>



# Annex 3. 2023 Risk matrix

## Annex 3. 2023 Risk matrix

Risk category	Risk description	Mitigation strategy applied
Political	Civil unrest in target countries challenging implementation, reducing donor's willingness to continue funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faced with a suspension of funding (in Niger following the coup d'état at the end of July 2023), some activities were cancelled to focus on those already underway.</li> </ul>
	Political transitions and frequent changes in regional/national authorities affecting the continuity of support and influencing UNDP partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In response to institutional changes, intensified lobbying of national and local authorities helped maintain governmental commitment.</li> <li>- Maintaining the proactive involvement of the country office, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and other key partners at the national level, played a crucial role in sustaining momentum during transitional periods.</li> <li>- Engaging with key government counterparts through evidence-based training and awareness raising, and jointly identifying the best feasible entry points based on the government's priorities and urgent needs.</li> </ul>
	Political instability in implementation areas leading to a lack of political engagement, continuity and buy-in from governments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing robust communication channels and relationships with key stakeholders across the political spectrum to navigate potential changes in governance.</li> <li>- Sustained engagement with RECs leadership was critical for the successful execution of activities. To mitigate the risk of diminished political will and partnership, an ongoing dialogue was maintained with RECs and member states. This supports the continued commitment to implementing regional and global gender equality objectives beyond programme completion.</li> <li>- The national authorities were closely engaged (e.g. through the national technical committees) to obtain all permits and authorizations required by the legislation in force in a timely manner.</li> <li>- Proactive engagement with the new governments for endorsement on the continuation of country tax project implementation (e.g. Gabon).</li> </ul>
	Changes in levels of support from partners hindering implementation processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Efforts to expand the partnerships for joint project implementation at regional and country levels and for further funding opportunities from existing donors.</li> </ul>

### Annex 3. 2023 Risk matrix (continued)

Risk category	Risk description	Mitigation strategy applied
<b>Political</b>	Delays in governments' approval to implement activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure a more flexible approach to project implementation, bearing in mind existing challenges.</li> </ul>
<b>Organizational</b> <b>Organizational</b>	Insufficient financial resources leading to delays in implementation, reduced scope, or inability to achieve desired outputs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Simultaneously working with RECs and member states as a risk-mitigation measure has proven to be effective, improving coordination and increasing political engagement.</li> <li>- Consistently promoting a shared agenda reinforces political interest and collective action.</li> <li>- Securing commitments from multiple funding sources to ensure financial stability and explore in-kind contributions to reduce dependency on financial resources.</li> <li>- Prioritizing activities to maximize the use of limited resources, ensuring that objectives are addressed promptly. This approach involves careful assessment of each task's importance and potential impact on project goals, allowing resources to be allocated efficiently.</li> <li>- Collaborate with country offices (COs) to co-finance the project (e.g. Cameroon).</li> <li>- Actively collaborating with potential partners (UNDESA, UNECA, UNICEF, SIDA) to secure financing for the foreseeable future.</li> <li>- Optimizing resource allocation by leveraging online participation strategies to overcome geographical constraints, facilitate stakeholder engagement and reduce expenses related to physical infrastructure, travel and logistics.</li> </ul>
	Limited staffing or low availability of suitable candidates hindering implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The office continued to leverage its value addition to implement its planned activities with the limited financial and human resources at its disposal.</li> <li>- Using UNDP rosters or setting up expert rosters for specific areas to expedite expert selection and recruitment processes. Many experts have applied to join the roster.</li> <li>- Drawing on human resources from other offices through detail assignments, seeking support from country offices where activities are being implemented.</li> </ul>
	Complexity in multi-agency implementation leading to high transaction costs and affecting partner willingness to cooperate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaborative arrangements were strengthened during the implementation phase through regular meetings, joint reporting, etc.</li> </ul>

### Annex 3. 2023 Risk matrix (continued)

Risk category	Risk description	Mitigation strategy applied
Organizational	Low institutional capacity at partner levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementing capacity-building initiatives for regional institutions and internal UNDP teams and COs to integrate continuous training and support.</li> <li>- Consolidation of partnerships and collaboration can be key to leveraging synergies, ensuring a wide-reaching and resilient implementation framework for results.</li> <li>- Engaging stakeholders as implementing partners.</li> </ul>
	Technical issues during transition from ATLAS to Quantum led to the delay in finalization and dissemination of outputs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Close communications and consultations with UNDP operations teams and partners to mitigate the risks and delays encountered due to technical glitches in system transitions.</li> </ul>
	Limited capacity related to very specific areas of expertise at CO level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening the capacities of COs in the specific area of expertise.</li> <li>- Reinforcing more cohesive and coordinated actions at the CO level between UNDP and partners.</li> </ul>
Strategic	Insufficient funding available to authorities at the national level, hampering the capacities of governments to work for sustainable results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobilization of extra funding to address needs;</li> <li>- Increasing efforts to foster partnerships and collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners, CSOs and the private sector at both the regional and national level.</li> </ul>
Safety and security	In the Sahel, insecurity causes the displacement of populations in certain areas. This adversely affects activities, hindering cross-border efforts and leading to delays in the implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some activities were rescheduled or moved to a different location in Burkina Faso and Niger.</li> <li>- Closely monitoring progress and increasing communication, using opportunities for online participation.</li> </ul>



© UNDP WACA, Mauritania



**United Nations Development Programme  
Regional Programme for Africa**

Fiesta Building, Kirkos Sub-City,  
Woreda 02 House no. 220,  
Meskel Flower Road Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

[www.undp.org/africa](http://www.undp.org/africa)

© UNDP 2024