Unlocking borders, and understanding post-COVID-19 macro-economic trends in Africa

The Regional Programme for Africa serves as an incubator for transforming ideas into portfolios and/or projects that respond to development challenges and emerging issues at the regional and sub-regional levels. One such idea is the Africa Borderlands Centre, launched last month by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner and UNDP Regional Director for Africa Ahunna Eziakonwa, together with national, regional and international partners. The Centre aims to amplify and empower the voices of 270 million often-marginalized people living in borderland communities, which hold abundant resources in creativity, resilience and innovation. Through long-term strategic partnerships with regional institutions, the Centre will offer specialized, expert knowledge and technical advice that will enable the better design, implementation, and adaptation of innovative development programmes for border regions across Africa.

On 11 March, join us for the joint UNDP-Chatham House launch of a new report, “Economic Consequences of COVID-19 in Diverse African Contexts”, which examines the longitudinal effect of COVID-19 on macro-economic development in 10 African countries. It assesses the impacts on human development, trade, economic growth and health indicators. Lessons from this report and previous studies on post-recession recovery as well as the 2008/9 financial crisis, show that building higher institutional and government capacity over the long-term is key for building resilient economies while also driving short-term economic growth.

Also commencing this month is UNDP’s Development Dialogues, a conversation series on rethinking development solutions in our responses and interventions beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. We are excited to be associated with the dialogue series, and hope to draw lessons that will contribute to, and enhance our programming.

Jide Martyns Okeke
Coordinator, Regional Programme for Africa
KEY EVENTS AND ARTICLES

INTERVIEW: Ahunna Eziakonwa for BBC Newsnight, Unequal vaccine deployment ‘risks international development’

PRESS RELEASE: The Africa Borderlands Centre: Reimagining Africa’s borderlands and empowering its voices

PRESS RELEASE: Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, a new UNDP report in collaboration with ILO advocates for social protection for workers in the informal economy

UNDP Side Event at the 59th Session of the Commission for Social Development
Informality and Social Protection in Africa: Lessons for a post-COVID era

The Africa Borderlands Centre will establish a new paradigm for borderland development, representing our most promising chance to achieve the 2030 Agenda in Africa.

Ahunna Eziakonwa
UNDP Regional Director for Africa
In January 2021, the African Union and UNDP kicked off a year-long project, “AU at 20: A Renewed Call to Action for the 21st Century”, to mark the 20th anniversary since the establishment of the AU. The project will undertake a data-driven study to assess progress and chart a renewed call to action towards achieving Agenda 2063 (The Africa We Want) and the UN’s Agenda 2030.

In January 2021, the African Union and UNDP kicked off a year-long project, “AU at 20: A Renewed Call to Action for the 21st Century”, to mark the 20th anniversary since the establishment of the AU. The project will undertake a data-driven study to assess progress and chart a renewed call to action towards achieving Agenda 2063 (The Africa We Want) and the UN’s Agenda 2030.

AFRICA BORDERLANDS CENTRE

**VIDEO: Zeynu Ummer, Team Leader and Senior Technical Advisor, answers key questions about ABC**

Zeynu Ummer, Team Leader and Senior Technical Advisor, answers key questions about Africa Borderlands Centre

Watch video >>

**VIDEO: Elevating Voices from Africa’s Borderlands**

ELEVATING VOICES FROM AFRICA’S BORDERLANDS

Watch video >>
24 FEBRUARY

Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-Border Initiatives (SECCCI)

EVENT: Handing Over Ceremony of COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment Consignment to Turkana County

Held under the esteemed patronage of H.E Peter Emuria Lotetihro, Deputy Governor of Turkana County, UNDP in partnership with the European Union contributed to the donation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to support the Government of Turkana’s COVID-19 emergency response.

SALW Project

SMALL ARMS: Towards the validation of the SP-CNLP communication strategy

From February 24 to 26, 2021, journalists, communicators and traditional communication experts will develop, validate and print the communication strategy of the Permanent Secretariat for the Fight against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SP-CNLP) at the Center sur Marie Delhez de Souban in Koulikoro.
Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad | COVID-19 Situational Briefs Series

Download the Preface: English

Download the report: COVID-19 AND STABILISATION: Governance Implications for Lake Chad Basin

Download the report: COVID-19 AND RESILIENCE-BUILDING in the Lake Chad Basin

Download the report: COVID-19 AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM in the Lake Chad Basin

Download the report: COVID-19 AND SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE in the Lake Chad Basin

Download the report: English

Download the report: English

Download the report: English

Download the report: English

UNFCCC

View the report: here

Youth

Download the report: Youth, Peace and Security

A Programming Handbook

Download the report: English

View the report: here
EVENTS

1 JAN - 31 MARCH

BECOME THE NEXT TONY ELUMELU ENTREPRENEUR

UNDP and TEF have opened applications for the Entrepreneurship Program to train, mentor and fund young entrepreneurs. This youth empowerment initiative is part of the broader Tony Elumelu Foundation-UNDP Entrepreneurship Program, launched in 2019 to support 100,000 African entrepreneurs across Africa.

Register here>>

4 MARCH

PREVENTION IN ACTION DIALOGUES | Development pathways for conflict prevention and peacebuilding

UNDP will provide a platform for exchange of ideas and experiences between practitioners and policy makers aimed towards collective thinking and advancing development pathways for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Register here>>

8 MARCH

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

The theme this year is: “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world.” Follow the conversation on Twitter @UNDP. Join the conversation using the hashtags #IWD2021 and #InternationalWomensDay.

Find out more here>>

8 MARCH

AFRICAN YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME | SECOND COHORT LAUNCH

Building a new generation of young African women leaders and experts to serve Africa and the world in designing and implementing development programmes in the context of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Find out more here>>

15-26 MARCH

CSW65

The Commission will address as its priority theme ‘Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls’

Find out more here>>
Contact:
Michelle Mendi Muita
Regional Programme Communications Specialist
michellemendi.muita@undp.org

Lauren Rooney
Regional Programme Communications Officer
lauren.rooney@undp.org