MONTHLY UPDATES FROM REGIONAL PROJECTS
Regionalizing Development Solutions: Opportunities for Growth

2020 has been a year of both challenges and opportunities. The Regional Programme for Africa has remained agile and adaptive in our delivery approach. As such, tangible results have been achieved and new opportunities for growth revealed. The November 2020 update is a reflection of the responsiveness of the Regional Programme for Africa amid an unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

The Regional Programme aims to shape and support UNDP’s work with the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and other regional mechanisms, as we design and implement innovative, people-centred development solutions throughout the continent. Our Renewed Strategic Offer helps to realize Africa’s development aspirations not only by supporting project implementation at the country and regional levels, but also by enabling new ideas and by strengthening the linkages between research and policy.

We achieved key milestones in November. We launched a flagship publication, ‘The Futures Report: Making the AfCFTA Work for Women and Youth’; established a partnership with the PanaBIOS Consortium to create technology that will restore cross-border trade and travel on the continent; and continued to deepen our engagements with WANEP and ECOWAS to support and empower women at local and national levels as critical stakeholders in political transitions, governance, peace, security and development. A detailed infographic was developed to provide an overview of the initiative’s objectives and expected outcomes.

No single actor can confront a global pandemic alone, and the Regional Programme will continue to promote multi-country and regional initiatives to combat the disease. This month, we have continued to scale up our regional COVID-19 response. Together with the AU and AfriLabs, we created the Rollo Africa Business Simulation Programme to support SMEs and the informal sector in the post COVID-19 recovery process. A similar engagement to boost SMEs has been established with the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD.

With a satisfactory audit performance of the Regional Programme, an imminent 100% delivery in 2020, and a very dynamic team, we are well positioned for an even more productive 2021. The Regional Programme will continue to co-create flagship ideas, promote a unique and integrated approach to donor and partner engagement, and facilitate regional solutions to acute crises in a manner that sustains peace and encourages inclusive regional growth and development.

I am particularly excited by ‘AU20’, an upcoming joint initiative with the African Union led by the Office of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, to conduct an empirically rich study on the AU’s development agenda ahead of its 20th Anniversary celebration. Other flagships on building smart cities, the future of governance in Africa, empowering women and youth, and supporting the comprehensive implementation of the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) Renewed Strategic Offer for Africa will continue to be prioritized.

Thank you for reading this update. I wish you all a restful and reflective holiday season.

Jide Martyns Okeke
Coordinator, Regional Programme for Africa
NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

KEY EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Planning COVID-19 recovery in Sahel countries: Officials and academics learn to assess needs, effects and impacts

INTERVIEW: Making Impactful Strides in Africa – UNDP Regional Director for Africa, Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa

Regional workshop to prevent violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin holds in N’Djamena

WANEP, ECOWAS and UNDP launch governance initiative to accelerate the women, peace and security agenda in the Sahel

“The partnership with TEF is a strategic first step towards more effective collaboration with the private sector and non-state entities to empower vulnerable and under-served communities in rural and border areas.”

Ahunna Eziakonwa
UNDP Regional Director for Africa
UNDP, in partnership with the AfCFTA Secretariat and the African Union (AU) Commission, launched ‘The Futures Report: Making the AfCFTA Work for Women and Youth’. The Futures Report is a narrative about the promise of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as told through the voices of 18 producers, traders, and policy officials in Africa.

Young Africans are at the cutting edge of technological innovation for digital trade and e-commerce.

The PanaBIOS-UNDP initiative is an excellent example of the forces for good we can wield if we put our minds to it.

UNDP announced the launch of a new partnership with the PanaBIOS Consortium, represented by AfroChampions, on the expansion of the scope of what began as a pan-African digital solution to support the safe re-opening of Africa to travel and trade in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PanaBIOS and its promotion of trusted testing will play an important role in promoting the safe reopening of Africa to advance some of the objectives of enhanced intra African trade through the AfCFTA – which is a key recovery stimulus from the ravaging impacts of COVID-19.
United Nations Development Programme | Regional Programme for Africa
BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE POST COVID-19 RECOVERY, CRISIS TRANSITIONS AND GOVERNANCE REFORMS IN SAHEL
A Partnership by UNDP, WANEP and ECOWAS

Objective
The overall objective of the initiative is to strengthen systems and structures that empower women at local and national levels as critical stakeholders in governance and political transitions in Mali, Côte d’Ivoire, Niger and Burkina Faso.

1. A platform for women influencers that contribute to political transitions and build social processes
2. Increased women’s participation in electoral processes and contribution to the reduction of electoral violence and peaceful political transitions
3. Mobilization and participation of women in multi-political dialogue, transition and reforms
4. Detail of a resource report and policy brief on current gender response strategies in the Sahel

Social media trends
50 TWEETS
200,000 IMPRESSIONS
+651 FOLLOWERS

Top tweet
Earned 24,800 impressions

Are you a young African innovator in the policy development space?

Apply for this exciting @UNDP + @AfricanUnion challenge on Innovating Africa’s Transformation through the #AfCFTA (deadline 23 November)

1millionby2021.au.int/afcfta-innovat...

#AYM2020 #BuildingABetterAfrica #MyPower pic.twitter.com/ZB5RTmkhow

Download the full infographic here >>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 DECEMBER</td>
<td>GLOBAL PULSE INITIATIVE</td>
<td>Virtual presentation by Global Pulse and RBAS DLI on “Global Pulse Initiative and Digital Lighthouse Initiative”</td>
<td>Tomas Kral</td>
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<td>2-22 DECEMBER</td>
<td>ROLLO AFRICA SIMULATION PROGRAMME</td>
<td>30 businesses from five countries will begin the Rollo Africa Business Simulation Programme</td>
<td>Fatma Ahmed</td>
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<td>4-13 DECEMBER</td>
<td>E-TRANSFORM REGISTRATION</td>
<td>Training opportunity on social protection for UNDP Africa Staff and Government Counterparts</td>
<td>Liya Abraham</td>
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<td>5 DECEMBER</td>
<td>PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM</td>
<td>PVE CoP webinar on donor mapping for PVE resource mobilization</td>
<td>Tomas Kral</td>
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<td>10 DECEMBER</td>
<td>HUMAN RIGHTS DAY</td>
<td>This year’s Human Rights Day theme relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and focuses on the need to build back better by ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts</td>
<td>Tomas Kral</td>
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<td>1-4 DECEMBER</td>
<td>COVID-19 RECOVERY TRAINING</td>
<td>Online training on COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment and Recovery Planning, jointly organized by UNDP and</td>
<td>Reshmi Theckethil</td>
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<td>3 DECEMBER</td>
<td>AFCTA LAUNCH</td>
<td>Launch of the AfCFTA Futures Report in partnership with the AU, AfCFTA Secretariat, development partners and</td>
<td>Ify Ogo</td>
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<td>5 DECEMBER</td>
<td>AU SUMMIT ON AFCTA</td>
<td>Virtual meeting of the 13th Extra Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on the AfCFTA</td>
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<td>6 DECEMBER</td>
<td>AU SUMMIT ON SILENCING THE GUNS</td>
<td>Ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, violent conflicts and preventing genocide in the continent</td>
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<td>15 DECEMBER</td>
<td>AU Early Warning Toolkit Training</td>
<td>The online validation of the AU Early Warning Toolkit guidance note</td>
<td>Tomas Kral</td>
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