“Don’t Do Anything For Us Without Us.”

YOUTH URGE IN DECISIVE MESSAGE AT INAUGURAL YOUTHCONNEKT SAHEL FORUM 2021

More than 1,000 young people from across the Sahel participated in the first edition of the YouthConnekt Sahel Forum in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 November to 2 December 2021 under the theme “Connecting Sahelian Youth for Peace and Prosperity”.

One highlight was the Sahel Innovate Challenge, a campaign to select the best innovative solutions created by young Sahelians with the aim of driving positive and sustainable change in their communities. More than 300 innovators from across the Sahel applied for the chance to win an all-expenses paid trip to the Forum and an opportunity to compete for a financial prize to invest in their innovative solution.

30 shortlisted winners were sponsored to attend the Forum and from this group, 10 innovators, each representing one of the 10 Sahel countries, pitched their solutions to a panel of four expert judges. The top five innovators were awarded prizes ranging from US$20,000 for first place to $3,000 for fifth place. The other five innovators received $1,000 each.

First place winner Ferdinand Adimefe, from Lagos, Nigeria, is the Founder and CEO of Magic Carpet Studios, an award-winning innovation storytelling company focused on putting Africa stories on the map of global entertainment.

Read more: EN ➤ FR ➤
UNDP launches Sahel Offer, seeking largest joint commitment to regenerate the region

“Such a large-scale investment in governance, renewable energy and in young people in the Sahel will pay incredible ‘dividend’s’, improving the lives and wellbeing of millions of people while helping to protect our planet.” (9 DEC)

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Administrator.

Read more ➤

Supporting inclusive transitions in Africa: UNDP and the African Development Bank launch joint flagship study

10-11 NOV: Recognizing the specific risks to peace and development posed by political transitions, in June 2021, UNDP began developing the Supporting Inclusive Transitions in Africa (SITA) Facility, an initiative spearheaded by UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA). A new flagship research project aims to contribute to the development of the SITA Facility and revitalize UNDP’s engagement on the effective management of countries undergoing transition.

Read more ➤

Capacity building of SMEs on AfCFTA rules and market access

15-21 NOV: UNDP participated in the 2nd edition of the Intra African Trade Fair – IATF 2021, organized by Afreximbank in collaboration with the African Union to provide a platform to connect African market players through exhibitions and conferences.

Read more ➤

7 days in Maiduguri, Nigeria: A snippet from the Borno State capital

22 NOV: In this blog, Tomas Kral, Regional PVE Project Officer, reports on the resilience of the Maiduguri community in the face of uncertainty and describes the important role of civil society in contributing to stabilization efforts, preventing violent extremism and facilitating inclusive reintegration.

Read more ➤
22-26 NOV: UNDP and partners participated in the 5-day International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Annual Workshop held in a hybrid format in Kigali, Rwanda. The workshop aimed to define orientations for 2022 within the context of the ICGLR strategic framework, take stock of the current situation of the ICGLR and its environment, and identify ways to improve on the synergies between the work of the ICGLR organs and partners. Implementing partners also shared perspectives on lessons learned, challenges and envisaged activities for 2022.

11-12 NOV: Organized in partnership with the Institute for Security Studies, key discussion points included: new geo-political dynamics and their impact on governance, peace and security in Africa; illicit exploitation of natural resources as drivers of conflict; external threats/influences affecting peace and stability in Africa; and AU-RECs/RMs collaboration in the promotion of governance, peace and security.

2 NOV: In this blog post, Daisy Mukarakate, UNDP Regional Climate Policy Advisor for Africa, writes that as global demand rises and the rush for minerals by corporates from rich countries heightens, the creation of a level playing field is key so African countries and the local communities that are directly impacted by their extraction also benefit socially and economically from their own resources.

Read more ➤
REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA

UNDP, Lake Chad Basin Commission provide training on civil-military dialogue in Hadjer-Lamis Province, Chad

Launch of the Dear World Leaders initiative at COP26: messages from Africa

Is sovereign debt impeding Africa’s COVID-19 recovery?

26 NOV: In an article produced as part of the UNDP-Chatham House Policy for Recovery in Africa series, Professor Carlos Lopes writes that although Africa is the least indebted region when judged against GDP or per capita, it is the most affected by sovereign debt pressure and contributes the least greenhouse emissions but is the most affected by climate change.

Read more

African Economic Conference: Development community calls for universal vaccine access to mitigate impact of Omicron, other Covid-19 variants

3 DEC: The 16th edition of the African Economic Conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, development institutions, the private sector, and researchers, to discuss ways to sustainably grow the continent’s development funding sources.

Read more

UNDP, Lake Chad Basin Commission provide training on civil-military dialogue in Hadjer-Lamis Province, Chad

22-28 NOV: More than 80 participants adopted acts of engagement, committing themselves to continued respect for human rights, civil-military dialogue, the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the creation of a civil-military committee at the local level to enhance cooperation, collaboration, confidence building, and to promote and restore trust between security forces and communities.

31 OCT-12 NOV: All too often, voices of world citizens, particularly those most marginalized and vulnerable, are forgotten in the debate around climate change. Ahead of COP26, UNDP launched a new initiative Dear World Leaders to help civil society to be heard by world leaders on climate change.

Read more
The Regional Programme aims to make research findings accessible, relevant and accurate in how they reflect the conditions affecting vulnerable and marginalized groups across the continent.
1 DECEMBER
UNDP-Chatham House Dialogue: Partnerships for Sustainable Development

1-17 DECEMBER
Kick-off of the “Grand Trail de la Jeunesse pour la Paix” (Youth and sports for peace project) to mobilize youth and build social cohesion through a 1,500 km running trail across Mali

2 DECEMBER
Implications of COP26 outcomes for Africa and rolling out Climate Promise Phase 2: From pledge to impact

2-4 DECEMBER
African Economic Conference | Cape Verde

6-8 DECEMBER

9 DECEMBER

9 DECEMBER
UNDP-Chatham House Dialogue: Private Sector Investment in Fragile Contexts

15 DECEMBER
UNDP-Chatham House Dialogue: Regional Development Planning and Coordination

14 DECEMBER

15-17 DECEMBER
2nd Annual Regional Research Conference on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism | Nairobi, Kenya