

THE PEOPLE EDITION



Contents

Editorial note.....	05
Azerica’s story: an Angolan climate migrant in Namibia.....	06
Africa is the most profitable region in the world, but do Africans know this?.....	08
Shifting attitudes towards key populations in Zimbabwe.....	10
Africa’s youth must drive – and benefit from – the AfCFTA.....	12
Exploring innovative financing to maximize the potential of the blue economy.....	14
Corporations must do more to create a better space for everyone.....	16
Stabilization in the Lake Chad Basin: the influential role of civil society.....	18
What can data tell us?.....	20

Copyright © UNDP 2022
All rights reserved.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations generally, or United Nations Member States.

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 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. Learn more at africa.undp.org.



Editorial note

As a strategic tool of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), the Regional Programme for Africa is designed to facilitate the attainment of a more resilient and prosperous Africa that can reach its promise, leading to transformative change in the quality of life for all.

Presenting the new Regional Programme

In 2022, UNDP will commence the implementation of a new Strategic Plan (2022-2025) and a new Regional Programme for Africa (2022-2025). For the next four years, we will continue to build on previous successes by partnering with African stakeholders and institutions to experiment with and incubate new ideas, from our work on COVID-19 response to regional integration, women's empowerment and support to inclusive political transitions.

What is The People Edition?

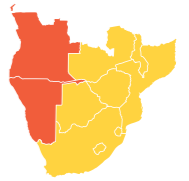
The new Regional Programme will underpin RBA's regional priorities across four areas: **People**, **Planet**, **Peace** and **Prosperity**. Therefore, the theme of this first special issue of our monthly newsletter explores **People** through the original views, voices and experiences of seven individuals: a climate migrant who escaped prolonged drought in Angola; a youth entrepreneur making waves in Nigeria's creative industry; a parliamentarian advocating for the rights of key populations in Zimbabwe; a young Malawian with an ambitious plan for an integrated Africa; a senior government official leading innovative financing in Cabo Verde; a business analyst in Tanzania reflecting on the role gender sensitive policies can play in corporate spaces; and a human rights activist and Right Livelihood 2021 Laureate playing a key role in the fight against Boko Haram in Cameroon.

Data for development

As a leading player in a wide range of technical areas such as governance, climate change and adaptation, financing for development, and addressing trans-boundary challenges in Africa, the Regional Programme recognizes the importance of data for mapping the development footprint of UNDP's priorities at the regional level. In the section '**What can data tell us?**', we provide readers with a brief overview, using quantitative analysis and visualization, of the emerging trends in COVID-19 vaccination rates in Africa.

We hope you enjoy reading this first special issue and would like to thank UNDP colleagues and partners for taking the time and effort to share these stories.

Azerica's Story: An Angolan Climate Migrant in Namibia



IF IT RAINS, WE
WILL GO BACK.

AZERICA

Angolan Migrant in Namibia



Since May 2021, 39-year-old Azerica and her eight children have been living in an informal camp in Etunda, Omsati region, Namibia.

Originally from Angola, Azerica and her community were accustomed to surviving on wheat. However, continued lack of rain caused the wheat to wither and dry, denying them a harvest for the past three consecutive years. After slaughtering all the animals that had survived the drought, there was no choice but to migrate to Namibia.

March 2021 saw an influx of climate migrants from Angola into Namibia as borderland communities fled the devastating effects of the prolonged drought on their crops and livestock. By December, the number of migrants living in the camp had increased to over 3,400 (including more than 1,000 children, some born in the camp).

In response, UNDP Namibia implemented the Rapid Response COVID-19 and Climate Shock Initiative with funding from the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre.

This quick-impact response provided the migrants with livelihood products including tents, clothes, food, shoes, blankets and sanitary products.

When asked if she would return to Angola, Azerica, holding her three-month old son who was born in the camp, defiantly said,

“If the rains come, we will go back. However, it will be hard for me to cultivate the land because my two brothers have left to find work in Namibia. I will make it though. It’s my home.”

The initiative in Namibia ran from October to December 2021, with the aim to support livelihoods, food security and climate resilience for borderland communities in the Omusati, Kunene and Zambezi regions. Similar rapid response initiatives were implemented in Kenya, Sierra Leone and Niger over the same period.

Update: In January 2022, the Namibian government began repatriating the migrants to Angola as reported by the [Namibian Sun](#). ▶

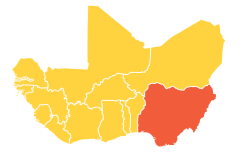
TO INVEST IN AFRICA IS A SUSTAINABLE CORPORATE STRATEGY.

FERDY 'LADI ADIMEFE

CEO of Magic Carpet Studios and winner of the YouthConnekt Sahel Innovate Challenge



Africa is the most profitable region in the world, but do Africans know this?



Written by Ferdy 'Ladi Adimefe, CEO of Magic Carpet Studios and winner of the YouthConnekt Sahel Innovate Challenge

As the CEO of one of the continent's most audacious emerging startups in the field of animation, I easily recognize the desire of the international market for African themed stories and content. Investors recognize this as well, as do many investment companies hungry for vibrant emerging markets, offering a long-term value and access to high growth opportunities.

To invest in Africa is a sustainable corporate strategy. Africa is a prime investment destination and will continue to be for a while since it plays host to half of the world's fastest-growing economies. With the growth of Africa's middle class, we're seeing a development of new expectations.

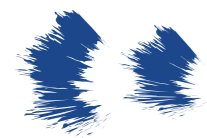
Creative industries are certainly our future; a continent grappling with one of highest unemployment rates needs to embrace more creative ways to empower our young people.

It is expected that the post-industrial economy will be a creative economy, but the structures and current set-up is limited. Many creatives cannot find the enabling environment to create, and many others are locked out of the

economic ecosystem getting the short end of the stick. With new distribution platforms comes increased demand. The penetration of mobile devices, access with multimedia devices and growing popularity of streaming video consumption will increase the demand for animation and Vfx content to power immersive experiences such as augmented reality, virtual reality and games, cloud computing for character rendering and modeling processes.

In 2018, we pivoted into a full creative technology incubator hub, housing multiple subsidiaries in marketing communication, media production, content strategy, development and tech. The first product from our incubator was **Magic Carpet Studios**; ► an innovation storytelling company focused on translating the best of African stories into world class export through the medium of digital art, animation, CGI and games.

In a bid to fill a growing gap in the creative industry and leverage blockchain technology, we launched our second product – **Artist3** ► – an ecosystem for artists and digital creators to curate African-themed NFTs for the global market.



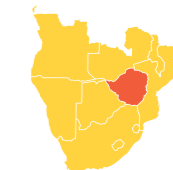
WHEN WE CAME BACK
THERE WAS A CHANGE
IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS
KEY POPULATIONS FROM
PARLIAMENT.

DR. RUTH LABODE

Member of Parliament, Zimbabwe



Shifting attitudes towards key populations in Zimbabwe



Dr. Ruth Labode, a Member of Parliament in Zimbabwe, is a She Decides Global Champion and a member of the African Union Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity Working Group. Dr. Labode is a champion for sexual and reproductive health and rights for the most vulnerable groups.

She has boldly spoken out in support of policy reform to facilitate inclusion of and access to healthcare services for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people, and young key populations (YKP) in her country.

Dr. Labode uses different platforms to raise awareness about key population issues (in the context of HIV and AIDS, TB and SRH), and advocates for progressive policies such as repealing laws on the wilful transmission of HIV. She has championed and supported UNDP's Linking Policy to Programming (LPP) Project, a regional project seeking to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes for young key populations in five

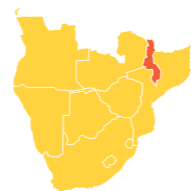
Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries including Zimbabwe.

In the #WeBelongAfrica: Young Key Populations video, she narrates how she participated in "meet the KP" programmes and travelled around the country to sensitize other members of parliament about KPs and the challenges they face.

Dr. Labode supported Zimbabwe's inception phase of the #WeBelongAfrica: Inclusive Governance Initiative project, a regional initiative designed to support state entities in sub-Saharan Africa to become increasingly accountable, responsive to and inclusive of LGBTI people and young key populations, which in turn will contribute to better laws, more responsive public sector services, and social norms that affirm these populations' perspectives, needs and rights.

Watch the video: [Voices of Young Key Populations in Zimbabwe](#) ▶

Africa's youth must drive – and benefit from – the African Continental Free Trade Agreement



By integrating African economies, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement has the potential to unlock a market of 1.3 billion people. Africa's youth are critical to its success.

Since May 2020, UNDP and the African Union Commission (AUC) have contributed to helping Africa's women and youth maximize opportunities in the African market through a project to support the implementation of the AfCFTA. Through various initiatives, including the inaugural AfCFTA Futures Report (2020), the Africa Youth Month Innovation Challenge, training guides, capacity building programmes, investments, and cross-regional dialogues, Africa's youth highlighted three key messages for maximizing opportunities from the Agreement:

1. **Youth are not a homogenous group**
2. **Facilitate market access for youth**
3. **Consider youth in the AfCFTA: from policy design to implementation and monitoring of action**

Between November 2020 and November 2021, UNDP in partnership with the AUC hosted the Africa Youth

Month Policy Challenge around the theme, 'Innovating Africa's Transformation through the AfCFTA'. The Challenge consisted of an AfCFTA masterclass for African youth followed by a competition in which finalists proposed regional and national strategic implementation plans for maximizing the benefits of the AfCFTA for women and youth.

The winning finalist, Alexander Katemecha, a Fisheries Officer Intern at the Blantyre Fisheries Office in Malawi, proposed a national strategic plan aimed at achieving several inter-connected goals: empowering women and youth and increasing their participation in intra-African trade; transforming micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) into mainstream businesses; and facilitating e-commerce and digitalization.

The strategic plan also prioritized access to safe, affordable and sustainable transport and information and communication technology (ICT); integration with regional and global value chains; and the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues such as the environment and climate change.

[Read the article](#) ►



THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM THE CHALLENGE WILL PROVIDE ME WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER.

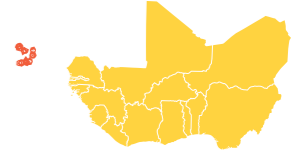
ALEXANDER KATEMECHA

Winning Finalist, Africa Youth Month Challenge 2020: Innovating Africa's Transformation through the AfCFTA

**CABO VERDE
IS BECOMING
AFRICA'S BLUE
FINANCE HUB.**



Exploring innovative financing to maximize the potential of the blue economy



Written by Dr. (Mrs.) Adalgisa Barbosa Vaz, Secretary of State for Business Development of Cabo Verde

With 99% of its territory covered by the ocean, the advantages of investing in the blue and green economy are not a novelty to Cabo Verde.

In 2019, the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Directorate of Cabo Verde launched the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) at a time when local resources had become very limited because of the pandemic; but also at a strategic time, when we started to prepare the new development plan for 2022. We identified a new modality for mobilizing funding for impact investments in the blue, green and social economy – the Blu-X platform – in cooperation with the Cabo Verde Stock Exchange.

UNDP offered the technical assistance needed to launch green, blue and social bonds on the Stock Exchange. Partnerships have also been established between public and private entities and development partners.

The coordination between these actors and the capital market regulatory agency allowed us to

immediately create the conditions and legal framework for the issuance of these bonds.

As a result, the first social bond was launched in November 2021 at the Cabo Verde Stock Exchange in favour of 22 municipalities, with an interest rate close to the public bond rate. It was the first time that a grouped bond issuance has been launched in Cabo Verde.

The initiative has been very successful, exceeding the amount initially planned. We are already planning to issue a new grouped bond for private companies that perform public works in municipalities with a social development purpose.

Cabo Verde has the ambition to position itself in the coming years as a regional reference for the issuance of blue, social and green bonds. The INFF has been key in guiding the country towards this solution to finance municipalities, as well as aligning investments and other funding sources with the SDGs.

Watch video clip ▶

Corporations must do more to create a better space for everyone



Written by Samuel Mpangile, Business Analyst, Tanzania

I took part in the **Gender Equality Seal (GES) Certification Programme** from January to June 2021. The training was designed to educate participants about UNDP's Gender Equality Standards and certify them to better assess companies that have complied with these standards and rate them accordingly.

The content of the training was very informative and relatable to the financial statement audits I typically conduct. Furthermore, I felt that the first few weeks of the training were important in helping me understand the role gender plays in our communities.

The fight for equality does not end at providing equal opportunities but requires a deeper understanding of how we actually see each other and how our societies have shaped the understanding of our roles based on our gender.

The main challenge during the training was in distinguishing my own biases in terms of what I think is compliant to the standards versus what the standards aim to achieve. The programme exceeded my expectations by opening up my perspective to aspects of the

corporate environment that are often ignored by society, such as the importance gender sensitive policies play in a company.

I look forward to being able to use what I learned in the future to help raise awareness of the Gender Equality Seal (GES) standards, encourage companies to adapt them into their policies, and create a more inclusive business community in Tanzania.

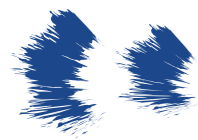
The training helped me to develop a better understanding of how corporations can do more to create a better space for everyone. Learning about what policies and practices need to be in place to qualify for the Gender Equality Seal helped me understand that the concept of "equality" is wider and deeper than just providing equal opportunities, but also about doing more to ensure the people we welcome to these spaces are comfortable and able to thrive in them. It was an eye-opening experience, and I look forward to using the experience to make positive changes in my community.

Read more about the Gender Equality Seal Programme ►

WE MUST ENSURE THE PEOPLE WE WELCOME TO THESE SPACES ARE COMFORTABLE AND ABLE TO THRIVE IN THEM.

SAMUEL MPANGILE
Business Analyst, Tanzania





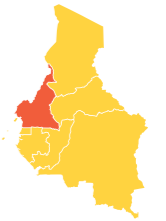
**GIRLS ARE NOW
GROWING UP KNOWING
THEIR DIGNITY AND
THEIR RIGHTS.**

MARTHE WANDOU

Human Rights Activist,
Far North Region, Cameroon



Stabilization in the Lake Chad Basin: the influential role of civil society



Marthe Wandou is the recipient of the Right Livelihood 2021 Laureate, also known as the alternative Nobel Prize. She received the award in recognition of 30 years spent advocating for children and women’s rights in her home region of Far North, Cameroon, an area affected by the Boko Haram insurgency.

In 1998, Martha founded Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré (ALDEPA), a local member of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Platform established by the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) for the Lake Chad Basin. The CSO Platform was launched in 2020 as a means to improve the localization agenda of the stabilization process in the Lake Chad Basin region.

Marthe has campaigned to change harmful cultural practices, such as child marriage, giving girls more options for their future. “I was lucky to be one of the first girls from my village to attend university in Yaoundé. My parents and relatives understood the importance of education. I want other young girls to get the same opportunity and go beyond what I have done today.”

ALDEPA has developed several initiatives to encourage mutual vigilance for the wellbeing of girls; provide a safe space to openly discuss and condemn harmful practices; and provide pro-bono assistance to families, guiding them through the judicial process and identifying the best methods to use.

ALDEPA’s actions have impacted more than 50,000 young girls today. One of their key achievements has been the creation of community structures in every village where ALDEPA operates. These structures serve as relays by working with 1,000 active volunteers to prevent and report violence.

Religious and traditional leaders, police officers are other partners are supporting ALDEPA’s work and playing a crucial role in changing behaviours and mindsets.

The CSO Platform is enabling ALDEPA and other CSOs to play a more significant role in society, from direct partnerships and advocacy to influencing policies for improved stabilization in the region.

What can data tell us?

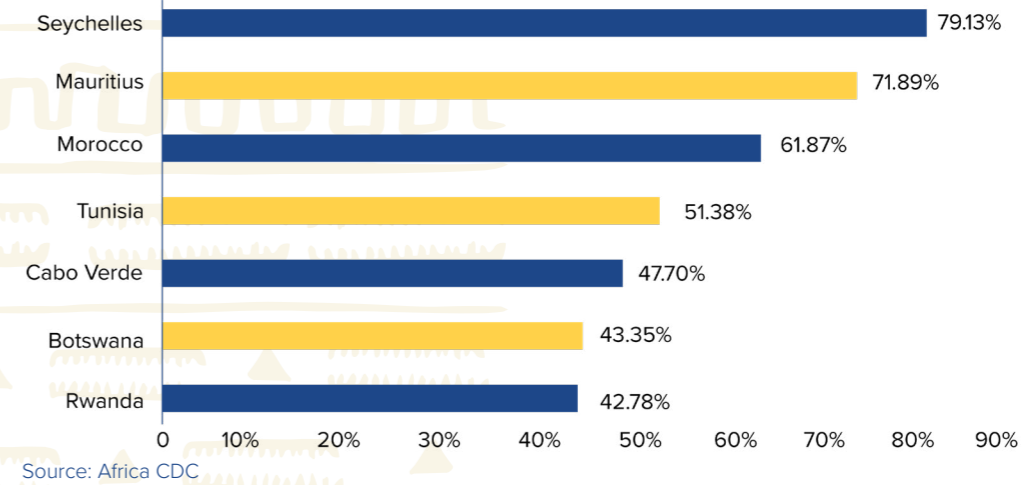
AS OF JANUARY 2022, ONLY 16 PER CENT OF ELIGIBLE AFRICANS HAVE BEEN VACCINATED.

Vaccination is a priority for Africa

The World Health Organization (WHO) set a goal of 10 per cent vaccination by Sep 2021 and 40 per cent by Dec 2021. However, to date Africa has the least vaccinated people (10.11 per cent fully vaccinated and 5.32 per cent partially vaccinated).

Countries such as Eritrea, Kenya, Mali, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Mauritius, South Africa and Egypt are currently battling the fourth wave, with the aftereffects of the pandemic as devastating as one would expect. It is predicted that with new variants mutating with time, the death toll from future waves in Africa will likely be high.

Countries with Highest Vaccination Rates per Population

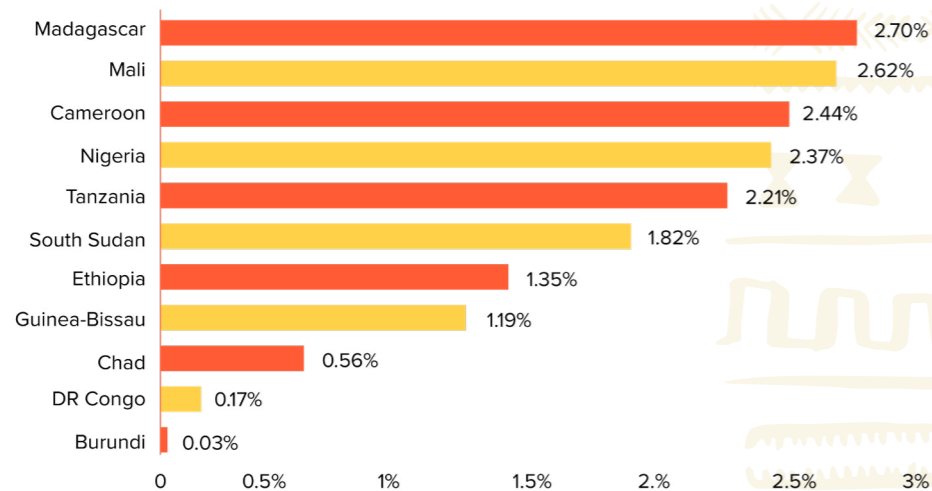


Vaccines delayed is development denied

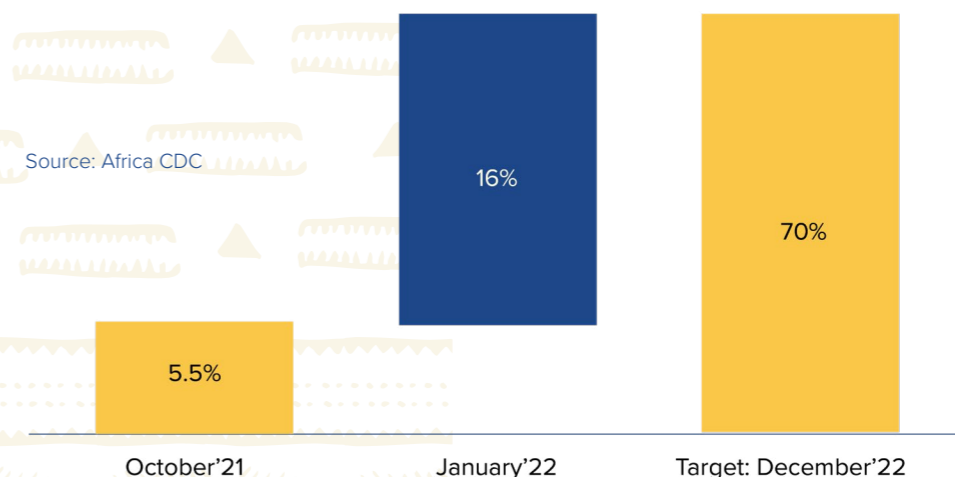
The African Union (AU) has set an ambitious target of reaching 70 per cent vaccination rates by the end of 2022. However, several impediments are responsible for low vaccination rates, including availability, hesitancy, production constraints and affordability. In April 2021, the AU proposed an ambitious plan to manufacture 60 per cent of Africa's vaccines on the continent by 2040. A recent summit on vaccine production organized by the Africa CDC, the AU Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) called for the rapid operationalization of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) to harmonize vaccine manufacturing regulation on the continent.

Though global pledges for vaccine coverage and equality have failed to meet increasing demand, these efforts in addition to new vaccine facilities under production in at least six African countries – including Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa in Sub-Saharan Africa – will likely help boost vaccination rates in Africa (IMF). UNDP will continue to prioritize support to the Africa CDC and African countries on vaccine production.

Countries with Least Vaccination (<3%) Rates per Population



Vaccination Rates: Past, Present & Target



The most populated countries in Africa, notably Nigeria and Ethiopia, have vaccinated less than 3 per cent of their population. Least developed countries such as Burundi and Chad continue to rank very low in the rate of vaccination – less than 1 per cent so far. Small Island Developing States (SIDs), notably Seychelles and Mauritius, have the highest vaccination rates in Africa though they constitute less than 0.2 per cent of Africa's population.



Regional Programme for Africa
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA)
Main Bole Road, Olympia roundabout, DRC Street
P.O. Box 60130
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
<http://www.africa.undp.org>
rp.africa@undp.org
Twitter @UNDPAfrica

