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THE AFRICA REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE P L A T F O R M



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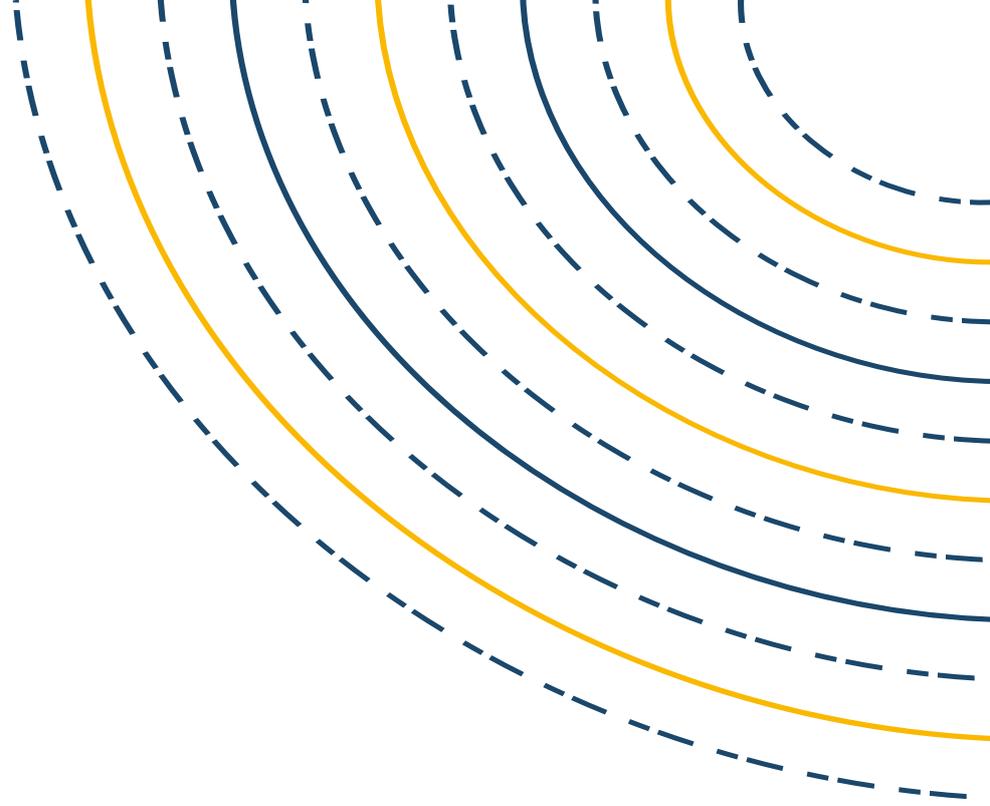


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Executive Summary



In 2021 the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) effectively started providing its collective technical and advisory support through its seven Opportunity and Issue-based Coalitions (OIBCs) and three Task Forces (TFs) to the stakeholders. As an enabling platform, the Africa RCP began to deploy its regional knowledge and expertise in response to in-country needs.

Early achievements of the Africa RCP include the sustainable financing interventions with Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) during the COVID-19 crisis. The elaboration of climate priorities on the Programme for Action on the Sendai Framework in Africa progressed, as well as the initiatives around the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The support of the Africa RCP for the AfCFTA included public debt management, in-country consultations that will lead to the proposed Women in Trade Protocol, and the development of AfCFTA national strategies in collaboration with RCs and UNCTs. The launch of the first continent-wide data platform was a key milestone attained with high-quality data for tracking progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Africa Union's Agenda 2063.

Africa continues to face multidimensional challenges, including vaccine inequity with COVID-19, widening gaps in digital connectivity, all too slow progress in gender equality, increased vulnerabilities of a growing number of refugees and migrants, and heightened food insecurity. The continent has also been pushed to the frontlines of the climate crisis. In addition, inequalities are fueling political, economic, ethnic and social tensions, human rights abuses, violence against women, armed conflicts, terrorism and other instabilities. There are opportunities, however, for African countries to find the necessary fiscal space and financing to reverse these trends, which have led to slow progress, or regression, in the SDGs across Africa.

Going forward, the Africa RCP will continue to support Member States' efforts to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and "rescue the SDGs" and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In doing so, the RCP will be guided by demand from RCs and UNCTs across Africa and provide policy advice, statistical analysis, technical support through surge capacity, capacity building and peer-to-peer exchange in support of the design of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. The Africa RCP will prioritize data analysis, climate action, macroeconomic transformation, and energy and digital transitions, with the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" providing additional impetus.



Introduction

The annual results report of the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) covers key results and deliverables reported between January and December 2021, demonstrating a gradual shift from the design phase of the RCP to its implementation stage.

According to the global SDGs database and assessment made by the Economic Commission for Africa, the current pace of progress is not fast enough to achieve the SDGs by 2030 in Africa. Only three SDGs – good health and well-being, quality education, and life on land – offer “moderate” improvements at best. The progress achieved on 12 other SDGs remains low or stagnated. Significant challenges lie with SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 16 regarding peace, justice, and strong institutions as the continent has regressed on these crucial goals.

Serious concerns have been raised over recent political and security crises across Africa, threatening to derail the hard-earned gains toward sustainable development, democracy, the rule of law, governance, and human rights. From the UNHCR data source, a total of 35.9 million people across Africa were forcibly displaced in 2020, including 6.6 million refugees, 22.2 million internally displaced people, 982,000 stateless persons and 490,000 asylum-seekers. Despite generous refugee-hosting policies by African states, stigmatization against forcibly displaced people and migrants exacerbated their situation.

The continent faces significant sustainable development challenges caused by climate change. While Africa is not a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, representing only 2-3 per cent of global emissions,¹ it remains the most vulnerable region to the impacts of climate shocks. As the climate crisis spreads globally, Africa’s vulnerable nations, which are already strained by the economic fallout of COVID-19, suffer from the destructive effects of climate change disproportionately due to the lack of resources to recover swiftly.

The level of debt is surging again. Debt to gross domestic product (GDP) has risen from 40 per cent in 2014 to almost 70 per cent in 2022.² In 2014, only four countries were at high risk of debt distress. Today, we have 17 countries at high risk of debt distress, and four already in debt distress. Projected GDP growth of 3.9 per cent in 2022 will do little to address this challenge. Many countries have witnessed protests, especially among the youth, reflecting their growing discontent with political and economic exclusion. And overall, gender equality is not progressing as expected.

Despite all the challenges, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is expected to be a game-changer for Africa’s sustainable development ambitions. But for the AfCFTA to facilitate the type of inclusive, equitable growth that can underpin SDG achievement, deeper reforms are required to advance social protection, address disparities of informal versus formal actors, gender inequality, acute regional growth disparities, and foster a conducive enabling environment for dynamic and inclusive industrial and services-led growth.

1 https://unfccc.int/files/press/backgrounders/application/pdf/factsheet_africa.pdf

2. <https://www.uneca.org/?q=stories/statement-by-vera-songwe-at-the-40th-ordinary-session-of-the-executive-council-of-the&%3A~%3Atext=From%2040%20percent%20average%20debt%2Clittle%20to%20address%20this%20challenge>

Against this backdrop, the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform, through its seven Opportunity and Issue-based Coalitions (OIBCs), has started to channel the expertise and assets of regional UN entities to provide technical and advisory support to UN Country Teams (UNCTs), Member States and regional partners, coordinating the UN's regional response to cross-cutting challenges in Africa.

The seven OIBCs are clustered around cross-cutting policy issues related to big data, macroeconomic stability, demographic dividends, new technologies and digital transitions, climate action, good governance, and forced displacement and migration. These thematic coalitions were formed based on the specific needs of Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in different settings across Africa.

In 2021, the platform, through the OIBCs, worked with UNCTs on effective management of cross-border challenges, promoting intra-Africa trade through the AfCFTA, strengthening regional protection mechanisms, socio-economic inclusion and capacity building in relation to forced displacement and migration. For instance, UNCTAD and UNECA provided capacity-building support on policies and trade-in services in finance, tourism and transport sectors in Togo, Nigeria, the Gambia, Mali, Ethiopia and Kenya. Also, Togo, Nigeria, Mali, Ethiopia and Kenya benefited from technical advisory support and data inputs to develop COVID-19 response plans and monitor implementation of the plans in the finance, tourism, and transport sectors. These efforts by the RCP coalition's support kept these sectors in a relatively stable state to help these countries in the COVID-19 challenged economies.

It also developed relevant policies and strategies as a means to reduce inequity in health service accessibility and utilization for women, youth and adolescents. On the climate front, working closely with the African Union Commission, developed the matrix of the programme of action that will implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa.

The Africa RCP coalitions also focused on driving forward the implementation of the AfCFTA to help African countries deepen regional integration, foster intra-African trade and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Digital transformation has been identified as critical during the Decade of Action, and the Africa RCP provided UNCT in Malawi with technical assistance to design digital strategies for the government of Malawi, assess policies on technological solutions, and build the capacity on digitalization and use of big data for socio-economic recovery. The Africa RCP also launched the first regional online platform that captures high-quality data and evidence on the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063 from all the African countries. Finally, the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, in collaboration with international finance institutions, continued to support African countries, for instance, the government of Egypt, in public debt management and reporting.



The first regional online platform was launched in September 2021 to capture high-quality data and evidence on the 2030 Agenda and the African Union vision Agenda 2063 from all African countries.

About the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform

The Africa Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) was launched in December 2020 as the revitalized regional collaborative mechanism that brings together 25 UN entities across the continent, working on sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Africa Union's Agenda 2063, including addressing key challenges that transcend country borders and that are of regional concern while supporting UN Country Teams (UNCTs) at the country level, through the provision of policy advice, technical assistance, advisory services and advocacy.

The Africa RCP oversees seven Opportunity and Issue-based Coalitions (OIBCs) and three Task Forces (TFs). An eighth OIBC on sub-regional initiatives and strategies is currently under creation by Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and relevant Regional Directors. Serving as the main platforms of the substantive work of the RCP,

OIBCs aim to pool UN system-wide expertise in an agile and timely manner to respond to changing regional and country needs, through a demand-driven and results-oriented approach.

Mandate

As part of the broader reform of the UN development system, the UN Secretary-General recommended to reposition the structures and assets of the UN at the regional level to promote collaboration and foster joined-up action for the 2030 Agenda. As a result, and pursuant to [ECOSOC resolution 2020/23](#) and [General Assembly resolution 74/297](#), previous regional coordination mechanisms across Africa transitioned into the new Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP).

The Africa RCP is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and co-chaired by two Vice-Chairs, the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Regional Director of the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The RCP Secretariat is jointly led by ECA, the UN Development Coordination Office regional team for Africa and UNDP.



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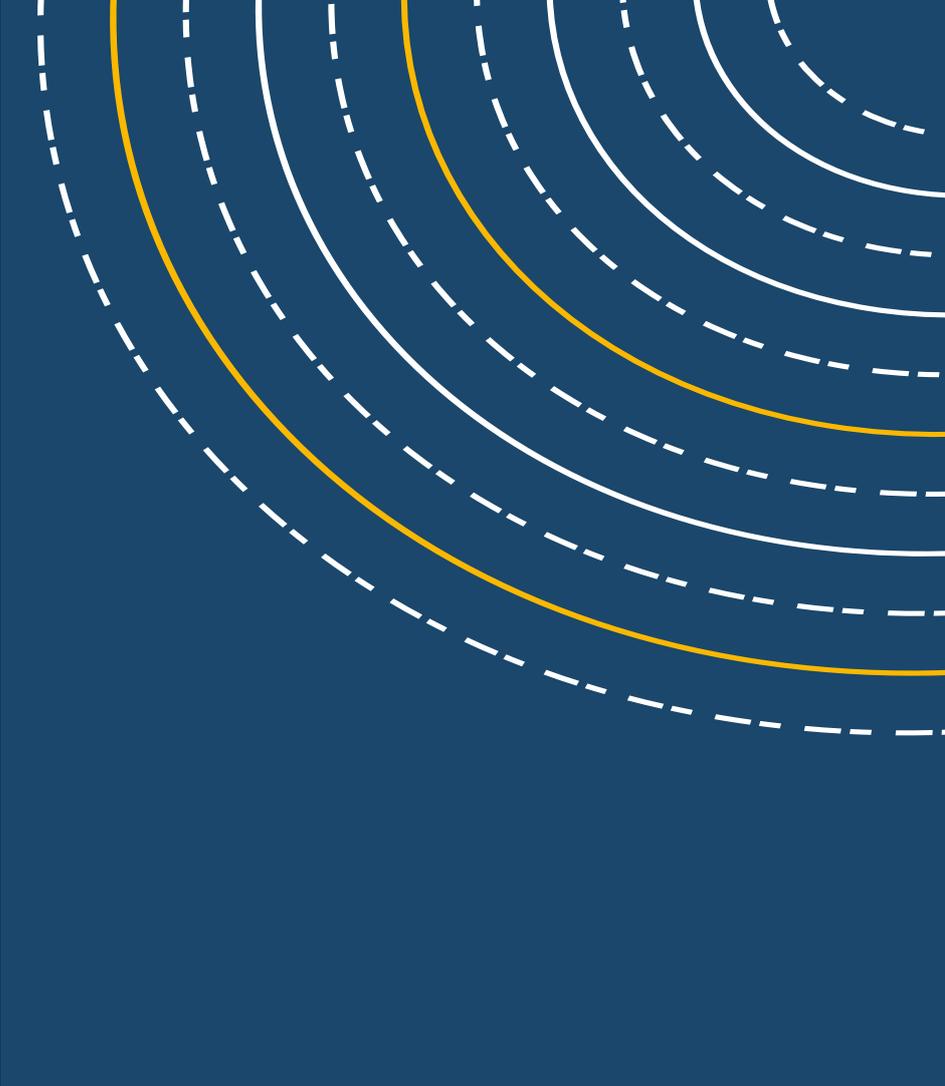
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UN Assistant Secretary-
General and Director of the
Regional Bureau for Africa,
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Vice-Chair, Africa Regional
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8 Opportunity and Issue-based Coalitions (OIBCs)

- OIBC 1** Strengthened integrated data and statistical systems for sustainable development
- OIBC 2** Ensuring effective and efficient macroeconomic management and accelerated inclusive, economic transformation and diversification
- OIBC 3** Harnessing demographic dividends through investments in youth and women's empowerment (health, education and employment) for sustainable development
- OIBC 4** Leveraging new technologies and enabling digital transitions for inclusive growth and development
- OIBC 5** Fostering climate action and resilience
- OIBC 6** Peace, security, and the respect of human rights
- OIBC 7** Forced displacement and migration
- OIBC 8** Sub-regional initiatives and strategies

3 Task Forces

- TASK FORCE ON RECOMMENDATION 2** Africa Regional Knowledge Management Hub
- TASK FORCE ON RECOMMENDATION 3** Enhancing transparency and results-based management at the regional level
- TASK FORCE ON RECOMMENDATION 5** Common back offices



Regional opportunities and challenges

Regional opportunities

Climate action and COP 27

Africa contributes only 3 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. But many of the worst impacts of climate change are being felt across the continent. In 2021, with the second-round submissions of Nationally Determined Contributions ([NDCs](#)), the continent had achieved an over 75 per cent compliance rate, with 20 countries submitting more ambitious commitments than the first round.

These revised NDCs mostly reinforce and recommit to trajectories captured in the first round, with clean energy and agriculture prioritized in over [70 per cent](#) of African NDCs and more land-based actions expected in forestry and waste. These sectors are aligned with national development priorities as well.

As Africa seeks to build back better from the pandemic and embark on the transformation of its economies to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future, it must be assured of effective and timely support. COP 27 in Egypt - the first African climate change conference scheduled in November 2022 - provides an opportune moment to go beyond the US\$100 billion through an immediate acceleration in the delivery of climate finance and setting a roadmap for an ambitious post-2025 target.

Without such targets, Africa will not meet its climate and sustainable development ambitions, and the world will fail in meeting its collective climate goals.

Through the RCP, countries including Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, and Uganda were supported to translate their NDCs into concrete investments capable of attracting finance and other resources for implementation. This is happening in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, and Uganda. In 2022, OIBC5 will prioritize advisory and technical support to help countries leverage Africa's potential to find its own solution for climate action.

African Continental Free Trade Area

Implementation of the AfCFTA presents a great opportunity for African countries to deepen regional integration, foster intra-African trade and achieve SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals), specifically the promotion of a multilateral trading system, increased exports of developing countries, and removal of trade barriers for least-developed countries.

By increasing value-added and trade flows, AfCFTA shall contribute to scaling up Africa's industrial development, which would also help achieve a series of targets under SDG 1 (no poverty), 8 (decent work and economic growth) and 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure).

In 2022, the Africa RCP will place further emphasis on issues related to coherence between trade and industrial policies, in support of inclusive growth, within the AfCFTA context; and working more broadly on debt sustainability issues.

Regional challenges

Resurgence of instabilities across Africa

Africa has made some progress in recent years towards building democracy, enhancing the rule of law, consolidating good governance, improving human security, and promoting and protecting human rights. Many progressive normative frameworks have been adopted and implemented to promote democratic governance, human rights, transparency and accountability, fight corruption and prevent violent extremism. But ensuring these are implemented with the desired results remains a critical concern.

Fears and concerns are rising as to whether democracy is receding, following the resurgence of unconstitutional changes, especially in West Africa. The persistence of conflicts and rise in terrorism, violent crimes and extremism have prompted the postponement of the timeline for achieving the African Union initiative for “Silencing the guns.”

Progress in democratic governance and peacebuilding is stalling in the region. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa have poverty levels higher than 35 per cent. The level of debt is surging again. Many countries have witnessed protests, especially among the youth, reflecting their growing discontent with political and economic exclusion.

Overall, progress toward gender equality has stalled over the past four years. Despite the progress made in the institutional and regulatory area, human rights situation, and access to justice, especially for women, in many countries has not improved, with governments failing to investigate and prosecute grave human rights violations.

In addition to the political challenges, the effects of climate change have become a new flashpoint for conflicts among communities – a trend most likely to intensify in the years ahead.

COVID-19 vaccine equity and Africa’s economic and social progress

In 2021, the continued COVID-19 response and recovery was central in shaping the policy thrusts and landscape of many African countries. The Africa RCP coalitions provided technical support through the RCs to countries, such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria and Togo, to develop COVID-19 response plans, and monitor the progress of the response plans in the finance, tourism and transport sectors. Elevating advocacy on vaccine equity and distributions remains a veritable entry point for many entities of the RCP in support of the UN Secretary-General’s call to action for developing countries.

Refugees and migrants

The impact of the pandemic on the socio-economic well-being of refugees and their hosting community continues to be severe. According to a recent joint World Bank and UNHCR COVID-19 Impact [Assessments](#), camp-based refugee wage workers in Kenya reported a steep drop in work opportunities from 50 per cent at the Kalobeyei integrated settlement to 5 per cent in the early months of the pandemic between May and June 2020. Since then, refugee employment slightly recovered to 15 per cent in November 2020, but still below the pre-COVID-19 employment rate, which was 25 per cent. This situation was aggravated by a significant decline from remittances impacting household incomes, forcing households to sell assets and take up consumption loans.

Similarly, a [joint report by WFP and IOM](#) on the impacts of COVID-19 and related containment

measures on migrant workers, remittance-dependent households and the forcibly displaced outlined clearly how the pandemic has further challenged the situation for the populations on the move in the East and Horn of Africa, a region that is already weakened by the conflict, insecurity, extreme weather conditions, climate change and pests.

The continuing instability in Libya, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel continues to trigger mixed movements and human trafficking. These conflict and climate-induced population movements pose grave protection and human security risks to men, women and youth on the move, including gender-based violence and arbitrary detention. An eighth OIBC on sub-regional initiatives and strategies, which is currently under creation, is expected to respond to the issues.

Food security

The food security situation in the East and the Horn of Africa deteriorated significantly. Sudan, Ethiopia, and South Sudan were among the ten countries with the worst food crises globally and there were concerning levels of acute malnutrition in the region, while Burundi had one of the highest levels of chronic malnutrition globally. The level of vulnerability of forcibly displaced populations has further increased during the pandemic on account of reduced funding for humanitarian operations leading to food ration cuts for refugee populations in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda, negatively affecting their food security, nutrition and protection situation.



**Highlights of system-wide
results at the regional level**

OIBC 1 - Strengthened integrated data and statistical systems for sustainable development

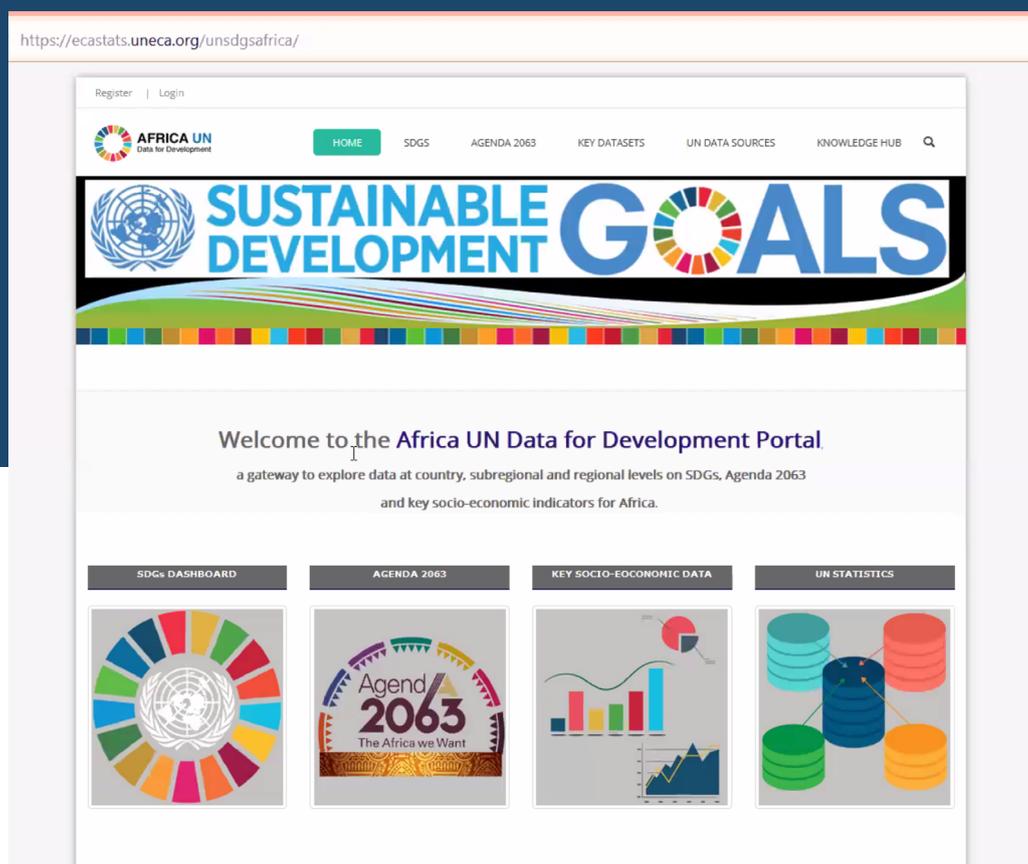
There is a notable development in terms of data availability in African countries. OIBC 1 played a coordinated role in developing a data repository to enable users, including Member States, UNCTs, civil society groups, academia and others, to access a variety of information on one platform. It also helped 19 countries track the Sustainable Development Goals with more than 160 indicators with data. There are 52 SDGs indicators with no data for any of the African countries, down from 79 indicators compared to last year’s assessment. This represents important progress, but with some countries still with fewer than 125 indicators with available data, significant work still lies ahead to ensure countries and all stakeholders rely on a solid evidence base to advance SDG implementation.

The Africa UN Data for Development Platform was developed and launched on 13 September 2021. The [platform](#) serves as a one-stop-shop repository capturing high-quality data and evidence on the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 from all the African countries. It is the first central repository of statistical progress toward the SDGs and the African Union aspiration of Agenda 2063.

The platform is an important tool to support governments and partners to monitor progress, make sound decisions, and evaluate outcomes and impacts, carry out in-depth analyses and progress assessments at the target and indicator levels, and link them with national development plans.



The current trends need to be reversed to meet the promise of these SDGs.



OIBC 2 - Ensuring effective and efficient macroeconomic management and accelerated inclusive economic transformation and diversification

In 2021 OIBC 2's work enabled effective support for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for inclusive acceleration and economic transformation; in-country consultations that will lead to the proposed Women in Trade Protocol under the AfCFTA; support for the African Union Commission during the Africa Industrialization Week with bespoke data analytics on the

industrial sector; and the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) platform to support African countries in public debt management. Policy papers on the above initiatives will support the knowledge base and evidence for advancing the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

In 2021, OIBC 2 collaboratively worked with the AfCFTA Secretariat to support African countries in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to reap benefits from AfCFTA for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa.

OIBC 2 collaborated with RCs and UNCTs in countries, including Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to develop AfCFTA national strategies to support the integrated and inclusive implementation of AfCFTA. OIBC 2 also provided technical advisory assistance to Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, the Gambia and Togo for Global Value Chain and Trade in Value Added. The OIBC supported the establishment of the the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) to assist the beneficiary Member States to reform their customs regimes, procedures, and systems in line with international standards and best practices. Between 2020 and 2021, 37 African countries and territories used ASYCUDA systems. These interventions are linked with SDG 1, 8, 9 and 17 and Aspiration 1, 6 and 7 of the AU 2063 Agenda.

The OIBC also supported capacity building of women-led small and mid-size enterprises operating in Western Africa to understand the AfCFTA rules and identify market opportunities and produced a policy brief, "Making Trade Agreements Work For Gender Equality."³

In addition, OIBC 2 members provided support to Resident Coordinators and Member States to best use the opportunities created by AfCFTA. UNDP, ECA, and UNCTAD provided capacity-building support on policies and trade-in services in finance, tourism and transport sectors in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, the Gambia and Togo through the Resident Coordinators. This initiative has informed stakeholders in these countries of emerging opportunities around the AfCFTA. ITC and UNCTAD collaboratively produced a paper, "Unlocking Regional Trade Opportunities in Africa for a More Sustainable and Inclusive Future."

Highlights of the support that OIBC 2 provided to the Member States with AfCFTA Phase II negotiations on investment, intellectual property rights, competition policy, and digital trade regional results:

- Under the auspices of the AfCFTA support programme to eliminate non-tariff barriers, increase regulatory transparency and promote industrial diversification, OIBC 2 worked with the African Union and the AfCFTA Secretariat to help develop the online reporting, monitoring and elimination mechanism on non-tariff barriers. This initiative will cover ten more countries in 2022 and assist countries in collecting and disseminating comprehensive information on all currently applied, trade-related and official government regulations.
- OIBC 2 worked on a regional dialogue with African digital entrepreneurs and firms that helped identify priority issues for the Protocol on digitalization to support trade and industrialization across Africa, consonant with SDG 9 (target 9.5 a, b, c) and Aspiration 1 of AU Agenda 2063.

3. <https://unctad.org/webflyer/making-trade-agreements-work-gender-equality-data-and-statistics>

The African Debt Sustainability Conundrum

In the context of the ongoing uneven COVID-19 recovery, debt management is a crucial regional development priority in Africa. With the weakened health systems due to COVID-19 and the systemic vulnerabilities, many African countries are currently struggling to foster a broad-based recovery while dealing with worsening debt sustainability outlooks.

African countries need funding to face the consequences of the pandemic on the economy and to revive economic growth. The international institutions and developed countries should assist the continent in debt management through various mechanisms such as debt cancellation, as the international measures adopted so far in this respect – notably the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) and the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI – have been positive but insufficient, and several African countries face worsening risks of debt distress.

OIBC 2 also helped the UNCT in Malawi prepare the national socio-economic response plan, led by the Malawi National Planning Commission (NPC). OIBC 2 members remotely supported the local UNDP senior economist and RCO economist to review and improve the three-year recovery plan, prepared by the NPC with the support of UN Malawi. This regional support led to greater quality and coherence in the document and enhanced trust by the NPC in the ability of the UN to mobilize the best capacity to benefit a highly strategic national planning process for recovery. The OIBC provided similar support to Ghana and Namibia with their socio-economic recovery plans.

Ghana received policy support from OIBC 2

The Government of Ghana sought to introduce a new Development Cooperation Policy and Strategy (DCPS) and reached out to the UN Country Team in the country for its policy advice and inputs into the process.

The DCPS seeks to improve the strategic mobilization and effective use of development cooperation to complement domestic capacity to support the implementation of Ghana's medium-term development policy framework, which reflects the 2030 Agenda.

The Africa RCP Joint Secretariat leveraged technical expertise from ECA, UNDP, UNCTAD and other members to provide regional knowledge and experience in support of the country team, also tapping into the broader UN system support and secured the required advice and expertise on the tax exemption component of the policy.

OIBC 3 - Harnessing demographic dividends, gender and youth for development

OIBC 3 worked to support national and regional development frameworks, integrating demographic dividends to advance Goal 17 of Agenda 2063 (Empowerment of women) and Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4 and 5. Knowledge products documenting over 29 initiatives include policy briefs, studies and working papers in relation to the impact of COVID-19 on the opportunities created by the demographic dividend.

OIBC 3 held various convening initiatives on the margins of the 21st edition of the Bamako Forum, the BRICS session on the demographic impact of COVID-19, #The4Dseries dialogue on demographic dividend pillars and contributions to the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063, which, again, resulted in the enhanced knowledge among the Member States. The RCs and UNCTs in the following countries received OIBC 3's technical support on the census: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo.

OIBC 3 supported RCs and UNCTs in their efforts to reduce inequity in health service accessibility and utilization for women, youth and adolescents through the following interventions:

- Regional situational analysis and joint multi-stakeholder consultations that involved national authorities from 40 countries and high-level committee meetings to promote adolescent health
- Joint reviews under the "2gether4SRHR" programme, and country assessments in many countries in Eastern and Southern Africa
- Organization of the second African Menstrual Health Symposium for the renew of commitments to attain universal access to menstrual health information, products and services
- Technical assistance to Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal and Sierra Leone for designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and documenting their adolescent, youth sexual reproductive health and rights programmes
- Joint assessments conducted in 17 countries by UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO on the status of continuity of essential sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, children and adolescent services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Two regional multi-stakeholder consultations organized by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), UNESCO, UNFPA and WHO on programming to promote adolescent well-being and three sub-regional meetings organized by UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO to disseminate the WHO Labour Care guide and user manual to professional associations and midwives



Photo: UN Women/Bennie Khanyizira

The OIBC's engagement led to the development of a project document and implementation of the census independent monitoring system in each country

OIBC 3 supported Member States with strengthened distance learning initiatives with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized women and young people to advance Goal 2 of Agenda 2063 and Goal 4 – quality education. This was done through the preparation of training resources and prototype lessons on life skills, targeting teachers and educational administrators. The Pan African Initiative for Digital Transformation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Africa was launched. The OIBC also enhanced capacity building on foundational literacy and numeracy in 13 countries across West and Central Africa.

In support of measures for vulnerable children, regional and national reports on the situation of adolescents and young people and consultations were carried out in 14 countries for the West and Central Africa Commitment for Educated, Healthy and Thriving Adolescents and Young People.

OIBC 3 also supported RCs and UNCTs to carry out capacity development for national stakeholders in technical and vocational education and training, promotion of cooperatives, and social and solidarity economy under "Jobs for Africa's Youth." The OIBC also helped UNCTs develop a joint programme on boosting decent jobs and enhancing skills for

youth in Africa's digital economy and technical assistance. The supported countries include Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Equatorial Guinea.

OIBC 4 - Leveraging new technologies and enabling digital transitions for inclusive growth and development

In 2021, OIBC 4 engaged with the UN Country Teams in Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe. Its wide range of engagements with UNCTs included, among others, technical assistance to design digital strategies and assess policies on technological solutions; analytical support to address gaps in SDG data; capacity building on digitalization and use of big data; and data analysis for socio-economic recovery.

OIBC 4 is also preparing to publish a White Paper on leveraging new technologies and digital transformation for inclusive growth and development in Africa: drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

OIBC 5 - Fostering climate action and resilience

In 2021, OIBC 5, working through partners, developed a Matrix of the Programme of Action in the period between 2021 and 2025 to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa. Working closely with the African Union Commission, the group assessed progress at the regional level and in countries, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, against the “Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030 in Africa”.

Further, the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR) was established, under OIBC 5, to implement the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa. The eighth Africa regional platform for disaster risk reduction and the seventh high-level meeting on disaster risk reduction were successfully held between 16 and 19 November 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya, under the theme “Towards disaster risk-informed development for a resilient Africa in a COVID-19 transformed world.” These two meetings concluded with the adoption of key outcome documents, including the Nairobi Declaration, by Ministers and their representatives responsible for disaster risk reduction to accelerate the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa.

OIBC 5 provided support to develop the AU COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa. The advanced draft was presented to and validated by representatives of the Member States and the Special Technical Committee (STC) during two workshops held on 10 and 13 December 2021.

Country-level support, through the UNCTs, was provided to Eritrea’s Ministry of Agriculture for developing the disaster risk reduction framework for the agriculture sector. Coordinated support was also provided to Member States through the Capacity for Disaster Risk Initiative (CADRI) Partnership for assessing and developing capacities for disaster risk reduction. Capacities for DRR were jointly assessed by UN agencies in Togo and Senegal, with a report validated and endorsed by the government of both countries. In Togo, a training session was facilitated jointly by FAO, IOM and OCHA for the personnel of the national institution in charge of DRM (Agence Nationale de la Protection Civile).

Following the request of the Government of Madagascar, a CADRI scoping mission was conducted between 22 and 26 November 2021. In Madagascar, a joint OIBC 5 support has been provided to the UNCT for an advocacy campaign with the objective to mobilize resources, raise awareness and attention to the drought crisis in the Grand Sud region, and showcase collaboration and innovative approach. Communication teams from regional offices of OIBC 5 UN agencies have jointly provided this support.

OIBC 5 has provided joint support to the African Union Commission to establish a continental multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS), including the completion of a strategic institutional and operational framework for MHEWS and early action in Africa by the CIMA Foundation under the leadership of the African Union Commission and with the technical and financial support of UNDP.

OIBC 6 - Towards peace, security, and the respect of human rights

OIBC 6 provided through partners targeted support to enhance the capacity and capability of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, Regional Mechanisms and Member States to prevent conflict, enhance peacebuilding efforts, develop a human rights-based approach to sustainable development, support post-conflict reconstruction and development, and address the root causes of conflict.

To this end, a series of interventions were carried out in support of the implementation of the AU Women, Peace and Security Agenda. For instance, UNDP developed an initiation plan on conflict prevention with the AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department.

OIBC 6, alongside the African Union Commission, issued the second joint regional analysis, covering February to May 2021, providing a snapshot of major regional trends related to the four thematic pillars of the Comprehensive Regional Prevention strategy for the Horn of Africa. The OIBC also assisted the Africa regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in the Horn region.

To help implement efforts to ensure compliance with international human rights, humanitarian law and enhanced protection of civilians, OIBC 6 provided support to the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Commissions, on integrating human rights into their early warning systems. OHCHR, in

partnership with the World Bank, enhanced operational linkages between the African Union Commission's conflict prevention and conflict response instruments and those of RECs, national policymakers and national civil society networks, while integrating a human rights-based approach to collecting, analyzing and sharing primary and secondary data.

The OIBC, through UNODC and OHCHR, organized a joint training session for the G5 Sahel Joint Force Police Component to increase efficiency and accountability in relation to international human rights law and humanitarian law in peace support operations.

UNDP, in partnership with the African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) along with Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal and Tunisia, implemented interventions to address the challenges and bottlenecks associated with the ratification, domestication, and implementation of AU treaties, and to help enhance the capacity of the AU and Member States to implement ratified treaties.

The UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre was established in February 2021 to support data, research, policy, and programming to unlock the socio-economic potential and promote peacebuilding in Africa's borderlands. The Centre is closely working with the UN system, particularly the Special Envoy Office, the AU and RECs to advance its mandate.



Filming of a short TV spot to encourage women in the security and justice sectors in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, November 2021.

OIBC 7 - Forced displacement and migration

By the end of 2020, the total number of forcibly displaced persons in Africa had risen from 35.9 million up from 33.4 million the previous year, according to the Secretary-General's [report](#) on "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa." This figure includes 6.6 million refugees, 22.2 million internally displaced persons, 982,000 stateless persons and 490,000 asylum-seekers. The COVID-19 pandemic hampered the ability of the United Nations and its partners to ensure protection and assistance to those in need and to pursue durable solutions in Africa. Despite generous refugee-hosting policies by African states, stigmatization against forcibly displaced persons and migrants exacerbated their situation – on the move, in exile, or upon return.

In 2021, OIBC 7 provided support to Member States for effective management of cross-border challenges, strengthening regional protection mechanisms, and promoting socio-economic inclusion and capacity building. Its results include publication of the Livingstone Syllabus for capacity building of Member States on their obligations to enhance the protection and assistance to asylum seekers, refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and stateless people.

Also, the Regional Protection and Solutions Dialogue for the East and Horn of Africa facilitated the exchange of good practices on refugee management and operationalization of solutions among the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East African Community (EAC), member and partner states, respectively. The dialogue showcased the emergence of regional frameworks for protection and solutions leading to the formulation of the regional refugee management

policies by IGAD and EAC, underpinned by its community law.

OIBC 7 paid special attention to the situation of refugees from Cote d'Ivoire and facilitated the agreement of a joint declaration from government officials from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania and Togo, regional bodies, and other partners where they committed to take concrete measures to facilitate the implementation of a durable solution for every Ivorian refugee in the sub-region.

Contributing to the climate resilience and the improved collaboration across the UN's development, peace, and humanitarian operations, in support of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and the work of the UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, an inter-agency, inter-pillar predictive analytics project was initiated to enhance coordination on data and strengthen preparedness for the growing and interconnected risks in the Sahel. The project has galvanized a consortium of 18 world-leading research partners, working on the key drivers of vulnerability, across the triple nexus, with a particular focus on how climate change, and other mega-trends, may contribute to new or exacerbated risks in the Sahel, using a research consortium that unites best practices in predictive modeling from different scientific disciplines.

OIBC 7 coordinated the launch of the Regional Migration Response Plan (MRP) – a migrant-focused response aimed at addressing the humanitarian, development and protection needs of migrants along the eastern migratory route, including transiting migrants, stranded migrants, settled migrants and returnees between the Horn of Africa and Yemen, through a multi-partner, multi-year response. The MRP brings together over 40 partners from the

Member States, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, the IGAD, UN partners, INGOs and NGOs.

On managing cross-border migration, ECA, UN Network on Migration, and IOM partnered with the AUC and organized the first continental review Conference of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) in Africa. In the IGAD region, a Regional Consultative Process on Migration conducted a sub-regional review of the GCM with support from the UN Network on Migration. In West Central Africa, the Regional UN Network on Migration for West Central Africa (WCA) supported ECOWAS in conducting a three-day high-level consultation on the GCM implementation in preparation for the International Migration Review Forum, which resulted in a report to be shared with all General Assembly Member States for the International Migration Review Forum.

Task Force on recommendation 2: Africa regional knowledge management hub

Task Force 2 has completed a comprehensive survey report that captures standard operation procedures, policies, and guidelines on the existing knowledge management functions across Africa. TF 2 mapped out reports on regional knowledge products to consolidate them and developed a communications strategy to enhance the visibility and accessibility of regional assets to RCs and UNCTs.

TF 2 continued to update and improve the Africa Knowledge Management Hub for COVID-19, which was launched in April 2020. This one-stop-shop platform provides information and knowledge resources on the pandemic in Africa to support African governments to strengthen capacities to respond to the pandemic effectively.

Task Force on recommendation 3: Enhancing transparency and results-based management at the regional level

Through activities undertaken by Task Force 3, there is progress towards enhancing the abilities of the OIBCs and TFs to utilize results-based management and be more transparent and accountable, including through reporting on UN system-wide results at the Africa regional level in support of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Task Force on recommendation 5: Regional Operations Collaboration

Under Task Force 5, also known as the Regional Operations Management Team (ROMT), 52 regional focal points are represented from 30 regional UN entities. The ROMT provided the overall oversight and quality assurance to the Operations Management Teams in 54 African countries to develop and implement their Business Operations Strategy (BOS).

Task Force 5 has also supported 109 Common Premises (CPs) and 21 UN Houses in Africa, with the target of supporting the remaining 350 single UN entity offices to move into CPs. TF-5 members are supporting the roll-out plan of the Common Back Office and Local Salary Survey Committee in several countries.

The ROMT is making progress on developing the regional BOS to scale regional level collaborations in line with Recommendation 5. Finalising it will require increased commitment and participation of all RCP members in deliberations on regional collaborative services.



**Engagement with
regional and sub-regional
organizations and other
regional stakeholders**

Most of the OIBCs worked closely with the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), International Financial Institutions and the Secretariat of the AfCFTA.

The development and launch of OIBC 1's Africa UN Data for Development Platform involved the collaboration with partners such as the AUC, RECs, World Bank, African Development Bank, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and the AfCFTA Secretariat.

OIBC 2 worked closely with the African Union and AfCFTA Secretariat for the production and launch of the Economic Development of Africa Report 2021 and the Futures Report: which value chains for Made in Africa (a joint report with the Secretariat). OIBC 2 partnered with the Think 20, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and African Think Tanks on dissemination, advocacy and policy dialogue on structural transformation, COVID-19 responses, International Support Measures for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Africa and LDC agency in the G20 process.

The external partners OIBC 3 worked with include the International Trade Union Confederation, International Organization of Employers,

Liptako-Gourma Authority, G5 Sahel, AU Pan African Parliament, ECOWAS and African Peace and Security Annual Conference.

OIBC 5 engaged in the Programme of Action to implement the Sendai Framework and the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa, offering 200 tailored recommendations for AUC, Member States, National Disaster Management Authorities and as part of the assessment report. Its coordination and technical support through the Africa Working Group for Disaster Risk Reduction also involved the AUC, RECs, civil society groups, private sector and other stakeholders.

OIBC 6 worked on a project initiation plan on conflict prevention with the AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department. G5 Sahel has been one of the critical partners for OIBC 6 as they carried out capacity development programmes to increase the number of uniformed women in the fight against terrorism and organized crime and gender mainstreaming and women's participation in the police component of G5 Sahel Joint Force.

The work of OIBC 7 was carried out in support of and in close partnership with the AU and RECs for the benefit of the forcibly displaced and migrant populations in Africa.



Conclusion

Under the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform, the Opportunity and Issue-based Coalitions and Task Forces are now well established and functional, and supported key stakeholders, such as Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams, the African Union and others, with quality assurance and programmatic advice, and helped them strengthen partnerships and alliances by bringing experts together and promoting efficiencies. The Africa RCP has departed from its constructing phase and is now at the stage of consolidating ownership and focusing on clarity of how to deliver better, with speed and scale.

In January 2022, the Africa RCP Joint Secretariat reached out to all the 53 Resident Coordinators in Africa to ensure that the delivery of the OIBCs was informed by demand from UNCTs. In their response, the RCs conveyed that they wanted to use the OIBCs as a way to scale up the policies and expertise of the UNCTs in support of the design of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and the analytical capabilities needed to inform the Common Country Analyses. They also requested technical support in transformative areas such as green economy, climate security, and prevention nexus among humanitarian, sustainable development and peace efforts.

The regional service lines that the RCs in Africa are interested in range from advocacy, policy advice, and statistical analysis to technical assistance through surge capacity, capacity-building and peer-to-peer exchange. The top four OIBCs of interest to them include data analysis, climate action, macroeconomic transformation, and digital transitions.

In response the Africa RCP will strengthen the service offering of the OIBCs at the country level and lift their value proposition to more strategic, analytical policy support.

The RCP will also focus more on planning, modeling and scenarios to ensure more flexible responses. Substantively, as set out in the 2022 workplan, the RCP will focus its work on four key priorities, aligned with requests from Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams: data; macroeconomic frameworks, debt and AfCFTA; climate action; and digital transformation and energy. Above all, the RCP will keep as its overarching focus rescuing the SDGs, setting annual milestones to monitor progress and ensure the UN development system responds with the urgency, ambition and scale required to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.



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