

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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Foreword



The Vision

UNDP's promise is to stay the course: nurturing the development intelligence we gain from engaging with borderland communities to unleash the talents and ideas within these rich cultures, as development assets.

Over decades, Africa has made significant strides in economic growth and human development. But, both COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine have changed that – pushing new boundaries on inequality as its' yawning gap grows. Borderlands – home to 270 million Africans, are a major habitat demonstrating this disparity.

Established in 2021, the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre pushes back against this trend – engineering, with local communities, targeted interventions responding to the specific needs of farmers, pastoralists, intellectuals, traders, historians, artisans, caregivers, women and youth living in Africa's borderlands.

We are starting to see that: one, that attention produces a treasure trove of ideas that can put meat on the bones on the Leave No One Behind agenda; and two, that programmatic investments can make a real difference, if focused, first of all, on better understanding how people in borderlands see their own solutions, and then mobilizing partnerships for programmes of impact – bringing along leaders and policymakers, while putting those very borderland communities in the driver's seat. We are learning that the people in borderlands can lead in protecting the environment, building inter-generational wealth and rebuilding social contracts – all of which have dividends in bolstering peace and security.

This inaugural Annual Report of the Africa Borderlands Centre captures UNDP's vision for Africa's borderlands. Since inauguration, the Centre has worked in 20 countries to advance socio-economic development and peacebuilding. In Kenya's Turkana region, we delivered livelihood empowerment programmes to 32 groups of reformed warriors, women's groups and youth groups. Along the Zambia-Zimbabwe border, we invested in innovative local solutions to support informal cross-border traders – targeting women and creating a new wave of promise for the African Continental Free Trade Area. And in the Liptako-Gourma region of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, our work created pathways to address the multi-dimensional impact of COVID-19, climate change and conflict.

UNDP and its partners believe that in improved circumstances, borderland communities will thrive and drive their country's socio-economic

prosperity. To get there requires paying close attention to inequality, especially in borderlands which, although portrayed as strongholds for insecurity and poverty, are in fact, pillars of promise given their land endowments, strategic geographic positioning and the enduring resilience of their communities.

This approach of tackling inequality is not only smart development practice, but also a vote for the aspirations of both Agendas 2030 and Agenda 2063 – giving the international development community new tools to stem conflict, the perils of climate change and forced displacement, and above, the tools to accelerate socio-economic transformation for sustainable development.

UNDP's promise is to stay the course: nurturing the development intelligence we gain from engaging with borderland communities to unleash the talents and ideas within these rich cultures, as development assets. By disrupting traditional development models, the Africa Borderlands Centre aims to empower and advocate for these communities, bringing a forgotten voice to centre stage, and working from there to chart a path for the future of development.

I am proud to present the Africa Borderlands Centre's ground-breaking work and look forward to working with all of you in sparking transformative and lasting change for these communities of immense promise.

Ahunna Eziakonwa

UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa

A portrait of Zeynu Ummer, a man with short grey hair, smiling and wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a red and blue striped tie. He is standing outdoors with green foliage in the background.

Executive Summary

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While borderland communities may live at the periphery, their views and their ideas are not peripheral.

Since its establishment in February 2021, the Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC) has demonstrated UNDP's unwavering commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while leaving no one behind. So much of the continent's development rests on unpacking the human and economic potential of Africa's borderland regions.

Opportunities abound, however, tapping into them requires a shift on two fronts. First, reversing the existing narrative that depicts African borderlands only as places of crisis, insecurity, humanitarian disaster, poor governance and areas prone to the impact of climate change.

Second, articulating development opportunities from the perspective of borderland communities and therefore, elevating their voices. While borderland communities may live at the periphery, their views and their ideas are not peripheral.

UNDP's longstanding experience as a reliable development partner and SDG integrator positions the organization to fill the gaps that arise from knowledge, structural, policy and programme deficits. African borderlands can play a catalytic role in advancing and realizing the continent's economic integration. The Centre was therefore created to shift the mindset of how borderland regions are perceived and to showcase them as unique and vibrant microcosms of development and growth.

In its first year, ABC initiated several unique and exciting programmes. For example, ABC's 2021 Innovation Challenge revealed how local talents and innovations are best placed to solve local development challenges. As a result, four projects are currently contributing to financial inclusion for informal cross-border traders in the border regions of Sudan-South Sudan, Niger-Mali-Burkina Faso, Zambia-Zimbabwe and Benin-Ghana-Togo.

In the Sahel, the Centre designed and launched a cross-border programme, focused on promoting trade and peacebuilding in the Liptako-Gourma borderlands of Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. The Centre also supported quick-impact programming, which contributed to improved livelihoods, peacebuilding and entrepreneurship at the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate-induced displacement in Sierra Leone, Niger and Namibia.

In 2021, ABC commenced production of the Encyclopaedia of Africa Borderlands, which aims to fill the vast data gaps in these regions

to support research, policy and programming. The forthcoming Encyclopaedia will fill critical information gaps using borderlands experiences and key demographic, ethnographic, socioeconomic, infrastructural and other relevant data to inform our research, policy and programming.

Africa's borderlands are vast and require a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing their unique and diverse needs. ABC's work benefits from and is strengthened by invaluable partnerships with the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, and a network of borderland communities among other stakeholders. Bringing together diverse partners and stakeholders is instrumental to elevating borderlands' voices and addressing the multi-dimensional development challenges facing communities.

Last year, our committed staff, volunteers and partners embarked on a journey to bring policy coherence, unleash economic dynamism, promote cross-border collaboration and push for robust climate financing to support vulnerable and conflict-ridden communities.

In 2022, we look forward to continuing our work with governments, partners and borderlands communities to identify and meet development needs through unique and evidence-based solutions, such as our flagship work on how farmers and herders build resilience against multiple vulnerabilities in the borderlands, expanding our work on innovation with a focus on digital financial inclusion, designing new programmes, and building on partnerships to empower borderland communities.

Zeynu Ummer

Team Leader & Senior Technical Advisor
Africa Borderlands Centre, UNDP

Our Origin Story: The Africa Borderlands Centre

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“Working in collaboration with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities, the Centre will unlock the incredible creativity, innovation and economic potential of borderland regions.”

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

Why borderlands?

Borderlands, regions typically within 30km from international borders, are unique development spaces with often untapped opportunities. They are the territorial margins of nation-states – where border contact is a central feature of economic and political life. Yet, the 270 million people living in Africa's borderlands are not only at risk of being left behind in the advancement towards the SDGs but also face the triple threat of conflict, COVID-19 and the impact of climate change.

Borderland communities are well-known for adapting to ever-changing, new and difficult circumstances by innovating with minimal resources. Economic development in these areas is limited, and informal cross-border trade (ICBT) creates a survival economy for many borderland inhabitants. They also often exhibit a high prevalence of extreme poverty and tend to be under-served in terms of essential services such as security, education and healthcare. This poverty is both a cause and effect of the violent conflict and insecurity afflicting many of Africa's borderlands.

UNDP launched the Africa Borderlands Centre in February 2021 based on co-created ideas with the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities. The Centre offers specialized, expert knowledge and technical advice to better design, implement and adapt development programmes for border regions across Africa with a commitment to enhancing opportunities for people living in Africa's borderlands and empowering them to be an integral part of all ABC development programming.



February 2021

The high-level launch event was organized in Turkana, Kenya, a region bordering South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda to emphasize that working on borderlands requires going to borderlands and giving visibility to its issues and communities. The event was attended by over 500 in-person and virtual participants, including Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, in the presence over 200 borderlands community stakeholders; senior Kenyan government officials; development partners; local and national media; and representatives from the UN and diplomatic communities.

Our Programme Approach

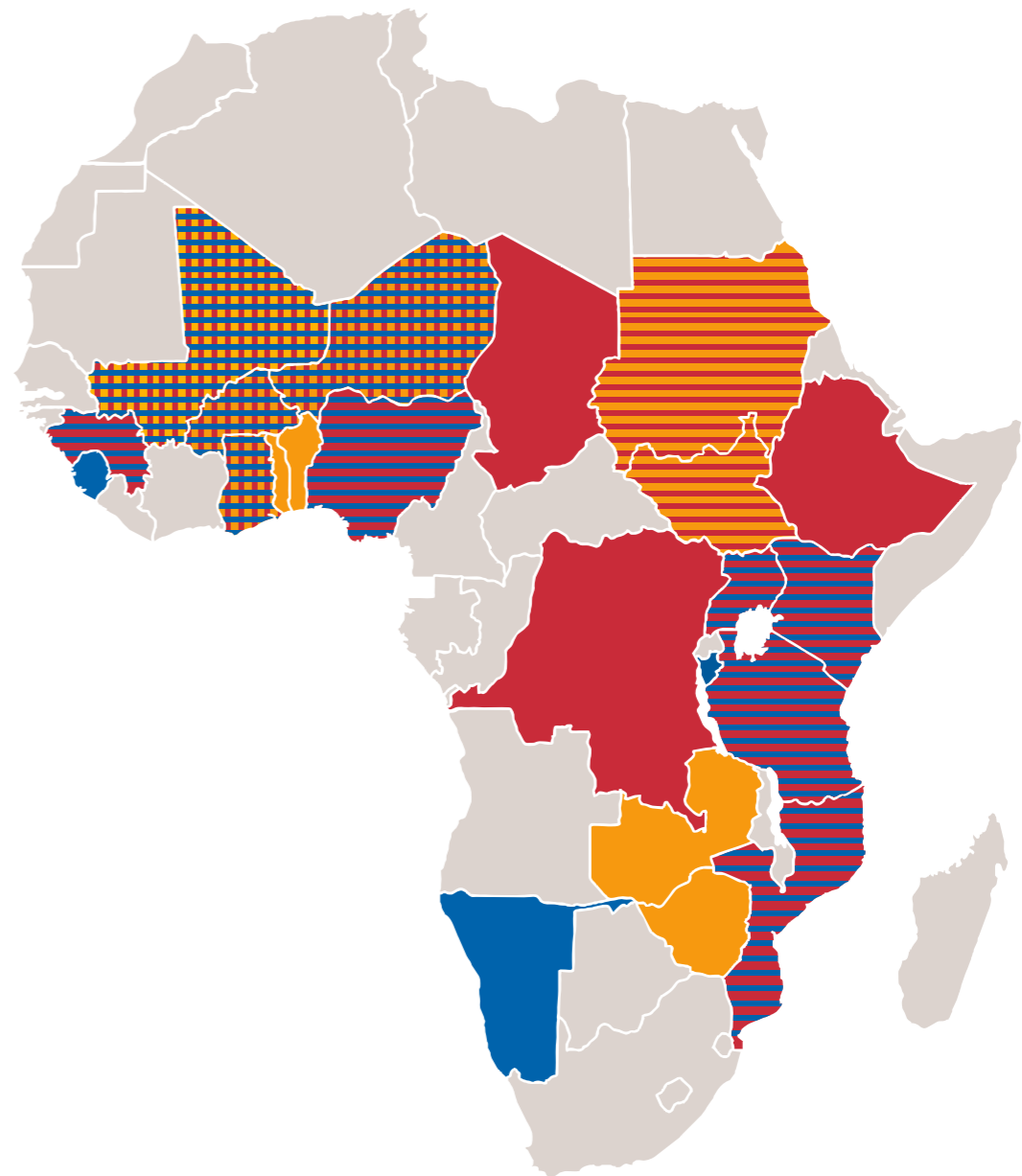
Evidence from the first 12 months since establishing the Africa Borderlands Centre demonstrates that borderlands are viable contributors to attaining the SDGs and sustaining national, regional and global economies. ABC has generated a model for socio-economic development in borderlands focused on six focus areas, three enablers and a four-pillar portfolio.





12 Months of Impact

» Our Footprint



Innovation	Programming	Research
<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovation Challenge Sudan, South Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso Togo, Benin, Ghana</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade for Peace Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quick Impact Kenya, Uganda, Ghana Nigeria, Niger, Namibia Sierra Leone</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scoping Mission Guinea, Mozambique Burundi</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research Sudan, South Sudan Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso Tanzania, Kenya Uganda, Ethiopia Ghana, Nigeria DRC, Chad</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scoping Mission Guinea, Mozambique</div>

2021 in Figures

February
2021
Launch



01 » 

270 million people
living in borderlands
1 in 5 Africans

02 » 

Engaged with
communities in
20 countries

03 » 

\$ 5million
invested

04 » 

\$ 6million
resources mobilized

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_31464

