

UNDP Framework

**DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS
TO FORCED DISPLACEMENT
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**



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NEW YORK, NY10017, USA

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The UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa, based in Nairobi, Kenya, is a regional centre dedicated to strengthening integrated resilience programming in support of communities, governments, regional organizations, and UNDP Country Offices. Through technical, policy, and programmatic support, the Hub champions a portfolio approach to resilience, focusing on climate adaptation, governance, human mobility, disaster risk reduction, water, and sustainable ecosystems.

To learn more about the UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa and its work on development solutions to forced displacement: <https://www.undp.org/africa/resilience-hub-africa>

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Foreword

Displacement is reshaping lives and communities across Africa. Millions have been forced from their homes by conflict, climate shocks and pressure on land and livelihoods. Most remain within their own countries, often for years, as crises become protracted.

Yet across the continent, there is also momentum. Governments and communities are being proactive, finding new ways to manage risk, expand opportunity and build more inclusive societies.

Displacement is a signal of deeper strain. Services are stretched, jobs are limited and social cohesion can weaken. Left unaddressed, these pressures fuel instability. Addressed early, they can be reduced. Humanitarian aid is essential, but it is not enough. It cannot rebuild economies and governance systems, or address root causes. That requires sustained development investment.

Development is not what comes after crisis. It is what prevents crisis from deepening and returning. As resources tighten, the case for acting early is stronger than ever. Investing in jobs, services and institutions reduces long-term costs and supports more stable recovery.

This means shifting from short-term responses to longer-term solutions that support both displaced people and host communities, while strengthening national systems.

For partners and donors, the message is clear. Short-term aid alone cannot keep pace with rising needs. Smarter, longer-term investments can.

This is a moment to lead, not react.

To invest early, stay the course and match action to ambition.

Because when we do, displacement becomes not a crisis to contain, but a force to build stronger, more resilient futures.



Ahunna Eziakonwa

Assistant Secretary-General and Director,
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Shoko Noda

Assistant Secretary-General and Director,
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Setting the Scene

Displacement, whether driven by conflict, climate change, or compounded fragilities, is a structural development challenge rather than a temporary or sector-specific issue. It requires integrated, long-term responses across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

These responses should address the full crisis cycle, reflecting shifting mobility patterns across Africa, reinforcing resilience, while preventing and anticipating future displacement.

Communities affected by displacement, or returns, have strong social and economic potential. They can drive sustained peace. Yet this potential remains underused. Inclusive development can unlock it through strengthening climate-adaptive livelihoods, social cohesion, and gender mainstreaming, aligned with local, national, and regional priorities.

Against this backdrop, the UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa developed a new flagship framework: *Development Solutions to Forced Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Aligned with the priorities of UNDP's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the framework is informed by extensive consultations and embedded within the Hub's portfolio approach.

The framework aims to systematize UNDP's support to governments by integrating displacement into national systems, policies, planning processes, and budgets. At regional level, it supports governments and regional organizations to advance coordinated, cross-border development solutions to displacement.

Structured around six geographic clusters, the framework targets Central Sahel, East and Horn of Africa, Great Lakes, Gulf of Guinea, Lake Chad Basin, and Southern Africa. It will be operationalized through area-based approaches, leveraging UNDP's comparative strengths in governance, resilience, development financing, and data.

This framework provides practical and strategic guidance through integrated programming, partnerships, and resource mobilization at country and regional levels. I am confident that it will boost concrete, contextualized, and scalable development solutions to displacement across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Zeynu Ummer

Director, UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa



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01

Introduction

Across Sub-Saharan Africa, the movement of people has become both a symbol and a symptom of profound transformation. More than 45 million women, men, and children have been displaced within or across borders on the continent ([AfDB-UNHCR, 2025](#)), with numbers expected to keep rising.

Displacement patterns are driven by a complex mix of conflict, violence, and increasingly frequent climate shocks. What once began as isolated crises has evolved into a continental challenge reshaping societies, economies, and the very fabric of development, with the recognition that displacement forms part of broader shifts in human mobility patterns. As families are uprooted and communities fragmented, local services buckle under pressure, livelihoods vanish or can no longer withstand climate disruptions, and social cohesion frays. In many countries, years of socioeconomic progress risk being lost, slowing advancement towards the Sustainable Development Goals and undermining collective resilience to future shocks.

Yet within this picture of fragility lies a powerful opportunity. Displacement-affected areas, when viewed through a development lens, can become catalysts for inclusive growth, stronger governance, and communities united by a cohesive social fabric. When national strategies, local institutions, and community leadership converge around shared solutions,

displacement responses can create new pathways for employment, local investment, and sustainable infrastructure – restoring dignity while strengthening economic growth and development. The challenge, therefore, is not only to respond to displacement but to transform it: to shift from short-term relief to long-term recovery and development that empowers people, builds systems, and reduces risks before crises deepen.

UNDP's framework, *Development Solutions to Forced Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa*, embodies this transformation. It weaves together prevention, recovery, and resilience-building into a single, integrated approach along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus that aligns with national priorities, builds upon existing capacities, and consolidates regional collaboration. Through area-based and cross-border approaches, it takes a holistic look at the needs of displacement-affected communities: host populations, internally displaced persons, refugees, and returnees.

By mobilizing public and private finance and harnessing innovation, the framework seeks to turn displacement-affected areas into engines of sustainable development, helping societies move from vulnerability to agency, and from crisis response to resilient progress.

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Rationale

Conflict, climate shocks, and institutional fragility in Sub-Saharan Africa drive displacement, creating a cycle of human capital loss and vulnerability that uproots millions across both rural and urban settings. Armed violence and political instability remain the primary triggers, while droughts, floods, and desertification disrupt livelihoods and intensify resource competition. Increasingly, displacement is also reshaping African cities, where more than 60 percent of displaced people settle ([UN-Habitat, 2025](#)). In many places, weak governance and limited institutional capacity magnify these pressures, turning temporary crises into protracted, too often repeated realities for those forced to flee - either within their countries or across borders.

Breaking this cycle requires more than responding to crises; it calls for well-timed recovery that rebuilds the foundations of self-reliance and stability. UNDP's approach focuses on the transition from humanitarian assistance to long-term development. Aligned with the HDP nexus approach, this fosters the governance capacities and socio-economic conditions needed for countries and communities to emerge from fragility. As communities face conflict, climate pressures, and fragility, prevention and recovery efforts are among the first steps in rebuilding trust between people and their institutions. They help chart risk-informed plans and lay the foundations for resilient, inclusive development, addressing the deeper drivers that fuel instability and force people to move or shift long-standing mobility patterns.

UNDP is uniquely positioned to respond to these challenges through harnessing its strengths and building on close complementarities within the UN system, such as with UNHCR, IOM, and other partners. At the corporate level, the Institutional Strategy on Development Solutions to Internal Displacement (2023) and the 2nd Global Refugee Forum pledges (2023) reaffirm UNDP's role in advancing government-led, development-centred responses. UNDP is an active member of the Global Solutions Hub, which, with the Administrator appointed as Solutions Champion, accelerates interagency approaches in line with the UNSDG-IASC Guidance on Internal Displacement (2025). In the UNDP Strategic Plan 2026–2029, displacement solutions are integrated in the new objective on crisis resilience, translating recovery into long-term, people-centred peace and development.

The framework adapts UNDP's focus on crisis resilience, one of the four objectives in the UNDP Strategic Plan 2026-2029, to displacement settings. It emphasises the need to act before, during, and after displacement. Before crises, it helps governments anticipate risks through conflict- and climate-sensitive early warning systems, risk mapping, governance, and resilient livelihoods. During displacement, it sustains essential services, empowers local authorities and communities, and promotes peacebuilding and dialogue to ensure that displaced populations are legally empowered and included in decisions. After displacement, it reinforces institutions, consolidates peace, promotes social cohesion, and accelerates socioeconomic integration and equitable growth.

Addressing drivers of displacement throughout the cycle of crises



UNDP Country Offices across Africa have built a wealth of experience in stabilization, recovery, prevention, climate adaptation, and peacebuilding, covering different aspects of the before, during and after crisis response. This framework connects the displacement-related components of these different programmes. It strengthens the capacities of national and local institutions, with the support of UNDP Country Offices, to prevent, manage, and resolve displacement-related challenges. It helps integrating displacement considerations across UNDP Africa and its regional and country programming portfolios by advancing inclusive governance, social cohesion, community resilience and economic empowerment. In doing

so, it builds on and operationalizes the HDP nexus by strengthening complementarities between humanitarian assistance, recovery, long-term development, and peace efforts.

Furthermore, the framework bridges the local and regional levels: supporting government-led, context-specific actions in rural and urban contexts, while providing regional public goods, such as data, policy guidance, and cross-border learning. Country experiences inform regional approaches, while regional models help scale local successes. Anchored in regional bodies and national strategies, this two-way system fosters coherence, ownership, and scalability.

By linking policy, programming, and financing on local, national and regional levels, and applying a vulnerability-based approach focused on empowerment, the framework complements humanitarian action, accelerates transitions, and reinforces national and local leadership. Aligned to the duration of the new Strategic Plan 2026-2029, it draws on UNDP's existing programming and comparative advantages: integrating displacement into development, climate, and peacebuilding strategies; and strengthening governance and social cohesion. Across its actions, the framework will build on partnerships with governments, regional organizations, financial institutions, United Nations sister agencies, civil society and other stakeholders. In doing so, it fills the critical gap of providing a predictable yet flexible vehicle for transforming displacement-affected areas into engines of inclusive growth, peace, and sustainable development across Africa.



Methodology

Displacement in Africa rarely stops at a border. Conflicts spill across frontiers, climate shocks ripple through ecosystems, with transboundary drivers creating large-scale internal displacement, and economic disruptions reverberate between regions. Recognizing this, the framework adopts a multi-country, cluster-based approach designed to tackle both conflict- and climate-induced displacement through shared strategies and regional cooperation. It answers a growing call from UNDP Country Offices for adaptable, scalable solutions that respond to similar challenges across diverse contexts.

A recent UNDP survey across 42 African Country Offices revealed this demand clearly: while only 43% currently engage in cross-border collaboration, an overwhelming 86% expressed strategic value in expanding development engagement on displacement within the next 2-3 years, in line with priorities of governments and communities and UNDP's mandate. Offices identified resource mobilization, programme design, and applied learning as the areas where regional support could most accelerate results.

The framework responds directly to this momentum: acting as a booster for UNDP's Country Offices – not replacing national programming but amplifying it. Through shared analytical tools, financing mechanisms, and knowledge resources, it strengthens local leadership, opens access to partnerships, and helps scale what works. Its cluster logic groups countries with shared drivers and dynamics of displacement to enable joint programming, cross-border interventions, and collective policy advocacy, ensuring flexibility and contextualization. The intervention logic of the framework, and the sub-regional, multi-country programming to operationalize it, is to support the integration of solutions to displacement into country office programming and resource

mobilization.

Pairing geographic specificity with shared thematic priorities and opportunities for impact, the framework tailors its focus to regional realities: governance and climate-sensitive livelihoods in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes; resilience and governance in the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea; inclusive governance and resource management in Central Africa and the Lake Chad Basin; and disaster risk reduction and recovery in Southern Africa. Across all regions, it advances continental pillars of socio-economic recovery, resilience and climate adaptation, social cohesion, and data- and finance-driven partnerships. With Africa's youth as its central focus group, the framework promotes inclusive, future-oriented solutions.

In addition to the youth focus, the framework applies a gender lens to crisis prevention and recovery, operationalizing the vision of UNDP's *Gender Equality Strategy* and the *Women, Peace and Security agenda*, while adapting them to displacement contexts. It integrates gender-responsive conflict analysis, survivor-centred recovery, and women's economic empowerment into critical systems such as governance, service delivery, and livelihoods. This helps shift from reactive protection to proactive prevention.

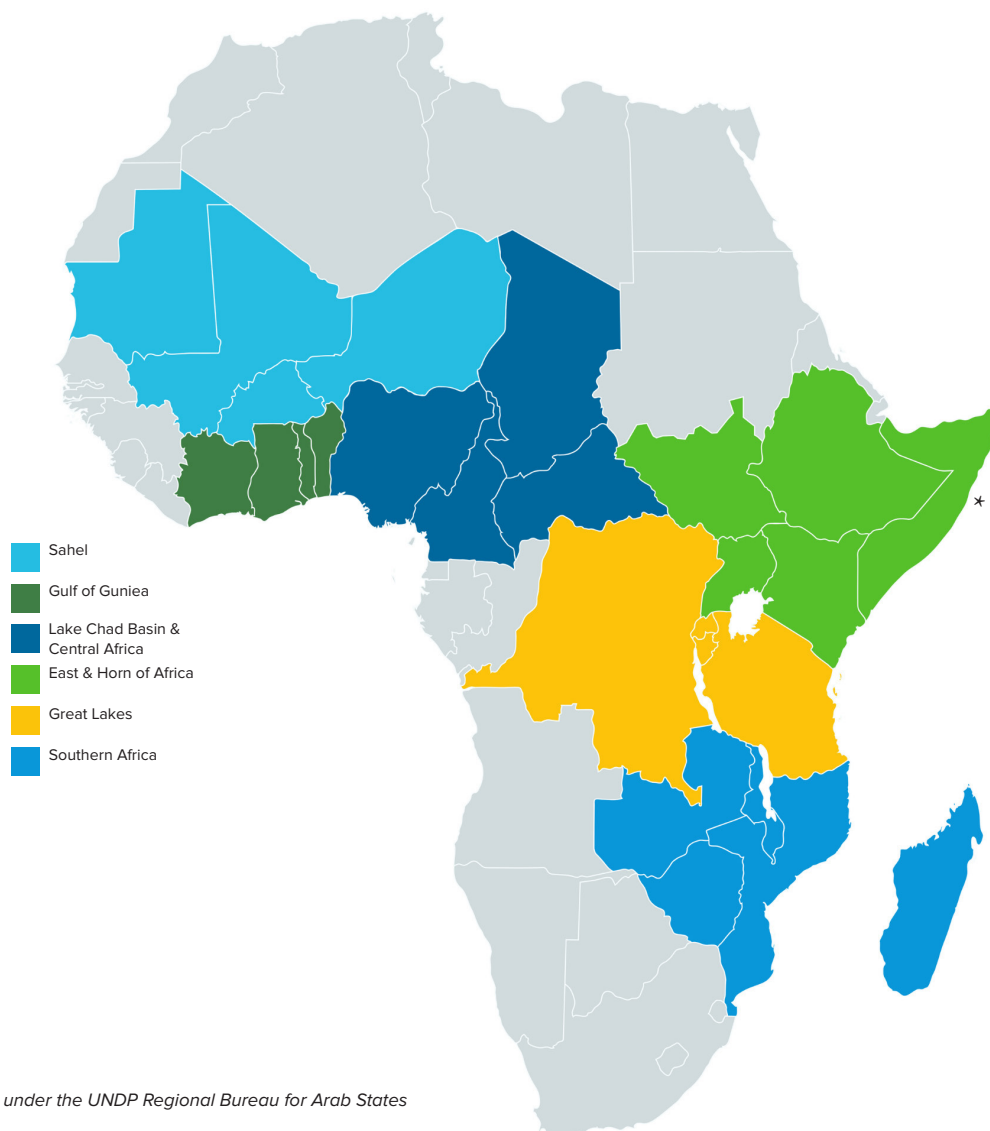
The framework also reinforces a "One-UN" approach by drawing on existing coordination mechanisms and partnerships with continental and regional organizations, development banks, the private sector, and national statistics offices. This integration strengthens complementarity, avoids duplication, and grounds action in evidence-based policymaking. Building on UNDP's leadership as a global champion for displacement solutions, the framework expands the agenda to encompass governance, peacebuilding, and institutional resilience to turn displacement challenges into engines of inclusive growth.

04

Geographic Clusters

Displacement in Africa unfolds along interconnected pressure points, from climate-affected borderlands to conflict-prone corridors that cut across regions. To respond effectively, the framework is structured around six geographic clusters – East and Horn of Africa, Great Lakes, Southern Africa, Lake Chad Basin and Central Africa, Sahel, and Gulf of Guinea – that mirror these interconnected realities and allow for contextualized interventions.

Each cluster brings together countries facing similar drivers of displacement, providing a practical foundation for interventions that are both tailored to local contexts and coherent across borders. The cluster approach is deliberately flexible, with some countries, such as Niger or Uganda, falling under more clusters than one. It allows countries to be supported individually or jointly, depending on their shared displacement dynamics, development challenges, and opportunities for collective action, including flexible consideration of future countries based on evolving needs.



By connecting contexts that face similar pressures, it enables multi-country, cross-border, and area-based programming that reinforces coordination, promotes learning, and advances regional policy alignment. It transforms regional diversity into an advantage, and links countries through common priorities, fostering collaboration where crisis triggers connect them. It translates regional coordination into tangible progress for displacement-affected communities across Africa.

Working through these clusters, and in countries outside them where needs arise, enables greater, scalable and sustainable impact. It is also achieved through synergies with the UNDP Africa Regional Programme, as well as existing facilities and initiatives on stabilization, prevention, recovery, mine action, and resilience. This ensures coherence, efficiency, and alignment with ongoing UNDP and partner efforts across the continent. On climate-induced displacement, including in fragile contexts, synergies will be harnessed with the AUC-UNDP Community Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRF).



Results Framework

The framework's results structure, supported by a theory of change, translates its vision into a menu of bankable options. It is built around two programmatic pillars and two cross-cutting enablers that link community-level resilience with institutional governance, evidence-based policy making, and sustainable financing. This integrated approach ensures that development responses to displacement are inclusive, scalable, and sustainable, with tangible results for both displaced and host populations.

Theory of Change

IF

The resilience of displacement-affected communities is strengthened, and structural vulnerabilities are addressed.

The institutional capacities of local and national authorities are reinforced to inclusively plan and support displacement-affected areas.

Development finance to fragile contexts is made more accessible, derisking measures are applied, and private sector engagement is facilitated.

Evidence on national and regional development approaches to displacement is reinforced and harnessed for inclusive policies.

THEN

Displacement-affected communities are enabled to prevent and respond to shocks related to conflict, climate and fragility.

Local, national and regional authorities can transform displacement-affected areas into hubs for development with broader national and regional impacts.

Overview of the Results Framework: Pillars and Enablers


PILLAR 1:
Resilience of displacement & return-affected communities

1		Gender-Responsive Access to Services
2		Climate and youth-adaptive livelihoods opportunities and value chain development
3		Social cohesion and community-led structures for conflict resolution and sustained peace
4		Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Support and Skills Development
5		CRSV and GBV prevention and response for displacement-affected communities


PILLAR 2:
Inclusive, sustainable governance in displacement-affected areas

1		Inter-ministerial planning, implementation and budgeting for solutions aligned to national/local/sectoral development plans
2		Rule of Law, Security, and Human Rights
3		Institutional capacity building of local administration and community governance structures
4		Mechanisms to address natural resource conflicts related to shifting mobility patterns
5		Gender-responsive institutions and community governance


ENABLER 1:
Development finance in fragile contexts

1		Private sector investment
2		International financial institutions and vertical funds
3		National development banks


ENABLER 2:
Evidence-based advocacy and institutional capacity-building

1		Collaboration and capacity-building of continental and regional organizations
2		Collecting and sharing quantitative and qualitative data, including scalable and adaptable good practices
3		Support integration of displacement considerations in data analysis of African regional institutions to reduce dependency on external actors

Pillar 1

Reinforce the resilience of displacement-affected communities, including upon return of IDPs or refugees

Displacement often amplifies existing inequalities, including along gender, economic, and generational lines. This pillar focuses on restoring livelihoods, expanding access to essential services, and strengthening the social fabric that binds communities together.

Gender-Responsive Access to Services

Access to quality services is a cornerstone of resilience. By supporting governments to expand and adapt, among others, education, health, WASH, and justice systems in affected areas, the framework reduces disparities between displaced and host populations. Mainstreaming gender equality and integrating the needs of women and girls, who often face unique barriers, ensures that service delivery contributes to empowerment as well as recovery. Engaging communities and designing services together helps promote harmony by reducing competition and building trust, as different groups see their needs reflected in decisions.

UNDP will support governments to map and strengthen local service delivery systems, train frontline providers in gender-sensitive approaches, and rehabilitate essential infrastructure, such as schools, health posts, and WASH facilities in displacement-affected areas. Partnerships with women's and community organizations helps to improve inclusive access for all.

Climate and youth-adaptive livelihoods opportunities and value chain development

Sustainable recovery depends on livelihoods that are both climate-adaptive and economically viable. The framework promotes youth and women's entrepreneurship, vocational training, and access to finance and markets, creating pathways to employment in sectors resilient

to climate and conflict shocks. Strengthening value chains and supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises help stimulate local economies and transform displacement-affected areas into drivers of inclusive growth.

Encouraging youth-led enterprises and cooperatives strengthens social integration and mitigates conflicts, while joint livelihood initiatives and inclusive value chains build interdependence, trust, and a shared sense of purpose, making economic recovery a platform for mutual respect and resilience. Together with local partners, UNDP promotes vocational and entrepreneurship training aligned with market needs, the creation of youth business incubators, and partnerships with the private sector to generate jobs in green and climate-resilient sectors. UNDP, in partnership with UNCDF, also facilitates access to microfinance, renewable-energy solutions, and value-chain development to diversify income opportunities for displaced and host communities.

Social cohesion and community-led structures for conflict resolution and sustained peace

Social cohesion is the glue that enables recovery to endure. Community-based dialogues, participatory planning, and local conflict-resolution mechanisms rebuild trust between displaced, host, and returnee populations. These structures reinforce local governance, prevent recurrence of violence, and lay the foundation for durable peace and inclusive development. Investing in community-led approaches, grievance mechanisms, and inclusive processes addresses social cohesion by bringing the diverse groups together to collectively solve issues.

UNDP establishes and strengthens community dialogue platforms, trains local mediators and youth leaders in conflict resolution, and supports small-scale joint projects that bring together displaced and host communities around shared goals such as resource management or local infrastructure. These mechanisms help to rebuild trust and prevent renewed conflict.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Support and Skills Development

Entrepreneurship is key to sustaining resilience and revitalizing local economies in displacement-affected areas. Many displaced and host-community members depend on small businesses but face barriers to finance, training, and markets. UNDP works with governments and financial institutions to lower entry barriers, formalize small enterprises, and support women- and youth-led businesses within local value chains, fostering self-reliance, job creation, and lasting economic recovery. Cooperatives and joint enterprises strengthen community cohesion by creating shared economic and livelihood opportunities and easing conflicts. Inclusive business models and collective market access make entrepreneurship a driver and platform for collective growth, local economic development, and peaceful coexistence.

UNDP provides tailored training, mentorship, and start-up grants for MSMEs in displacement-affected areas, with a focus on women, youth, and displaced entrepreneurs. It also works with local governments, financial institutions, and UNCDF to simplify registration processes, improve access to credit, and link small enterprises to local and regional value chains.

CRSV and GBV prevention and response for displacement-affected communities

Conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence remain pervasive risks for women and girls in displacement-affected areas across Africa, where conflict, climate shocks and weak governance erode protection systems while also increasing insecurity and limiting economic opportunities. Displacement heightens exposure to exploitation, trafficking, sexual violence, early and forced marriage, intimate partner violence and harmful coping mechanisms, while severing the networks and institutions that previously offered safety and access to services. At the same time, shifting gender roles often place women and adolescent girls at the centre of household survival and community resilience, expanding

their agency but also increasing tensions and risks within unequal power dynamics. Despite these challenges, women continue to lead efforts in social cohesion, peacebuilding and recovery. Addressing CRSV and GBV in these contexts therefore requires integrated, informed, and long-term approaches that strengthen protection mechanisms, rebuild trust in institutions, expand socioeconomic opportunities, and ensure survivors have access to justice, essential services and pathways to recovery.

UNDP strengthens community protection by supporting women's groups, youth networks and local committees to identify risks, develop safety plans and reinforce early warning and referral systems. It expands access to essential services through Women and Girls' Safe Spaces, one stop centres, targeted mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services and legal aid. Economic vulnerability is reduced by linking women's livelihoods and climate adaptation initiatives with protection measures, while also supporting land and property rights.

Pillar 2

Support national and local authorities to implement inclusive, sustainable governance approaches in displacement-prone regions

This pillar focuses on building capable, accountable, and inclusive institutions that can plan, manage, and sustain solutions to displacement. Using an area-based governance approach, it recognizes that sustainable recovery depends on national and local ownership, coherent policies, and effective implementation.

Inter-ministerial planning, implementation and budgeting for solutions aligned to national/ local/sectoral development plans

Across many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, national, sectoral and local development frameworks as well as planning and budgeting processes are not yet fully equipped to address the complex dynamics of displacement and to ensure both immediate recovery and long-term

resilience. Strengthening coordination among ministries and aligning humanitarian, climate, and development priorities is essential to help bridging fragmented approaches and deliver coherent, sustainable results. At the same time, displacement-affected communities are not always sufficiently included in policy dialogues and decision-making, which is essential to promote common understanding by ensuring diverse voices shape priorities and outcomes. Strengthening coordination of policies that expand services and shared economic opportunities for both displaced, host and, where relevant, returnee communities can help build trust and reinforce governance from the local level upward.

UNDP supports inter-ministerial coordination platforms and assists governments to integrate displacement into national and local development plans and budgets. Tools and guidelines for ministries and local authorities are developed to ensure displacement-sensitive actions are reflected in planning, financing, and monitoring frameworks.

Rule of Law, Security, and Human Rights

Displacement often heightens risks of exclusion, exploitation, and rights violations for affected populations. In many contexts, justice and security institutions face capacity constraints in ensuring protection and access to legal identity, housing, land and property (HLP) rights, and remedies for gender-based violence. Limited access to impartial dispute resolution mechanisms can further exacerbate tensions between displaced and host communities. Strengthening inclusive justice and security systems, while embedding human rights considerations into recovery policies, is therefore essential to rebuild trust in institutions and support fair and accessible responses to grievances for all.

UNDP strengthens access to justice through legal awareness and assistance, including through services adapted to the needs of displacement-affected communities, such as mobile courts or clinics. It supports training

and capacity development of judicial and security actors and assists ministries of justice in expanding legal identity and documentation services. Programming, importantly, also focuses on housing, land, and property dispute resolution and survivor-centred GBV responses.

Institutional capacity building of local administration and community governance structures

Local administrations, both in rural and urban contexts, are often the first responders in displacement crises. Yet, many local authorities face limited capacity to manage sudden population influxes, deliver services, and address emerging tensions between communities. At the same time, coordination between local governments, traditional leaders, and civil society actors, including women-led and community-based organizations, is often uneven. Strengthening inclusive and effective local governance is therefore essential to ensure that national commitments translate into concrete results on the ground and that responses to displacement reflect local realities.

UNDP provides capacity-building for local administrations and community-based organizations to plan and deliver services inclusively. Together with local actors, participatory planning processes are established to ensure displaced and host populations jointly identify priorities and oversee implementation at the local level. Dialogue platforms, trains local mediators and youth leaders in conflict resolution, and supports small-scale joint projects that bring together displaced and host communities around shared goals such as resource management or local infrastructure. These mechanisms help to rebuild trust and prevent renewed conflict.

Mechanisms to address natural resource conflicts related to shifting mobility patterns

Competition over land, housing, water, and extractives frequently fuels displacement and conflict. On top of existing fragilities, the effects

of climate change result in shifting mobility patterns, such as pastoralist movements, that risk fuelling inter-communal conflict if not addressed. By promoting transparent and equitable management of natural resources, conflict drivers are addressed, new crises and displacement prevented, and opportunities for shared prosperity created.

UNDP supports governments and communities to establish and sustain local resource management committees, integrate mobility-sensitive planning into land, water and natural resource policies, rehabilitate degraded ecosystems through community-led restoration initiatives, and facilitate access to climate-adaptive energy options. This reduces competition over scarce resources and promotes shared benefits.

Gender-responsive institutions and community governance

Across displacement-affected areas, weak governance, limited state presence and overstretched justice systems leave women and girls facing major barriers to reporting,

protection and justice, while insecurity, stigma, and eroded social norms deepen mistrust in institutions. Displacement reshapes local authority structures and security roles, often creating changes in mandates and gaps coordination. However, it can also open space for women's leadership in social cohesion, dispute resolution and governance, albeit with risks of backlash and heightened GBV. Long-term solutions require accessible, trusted and gender-responsive institutions that can prevent and

respond to violence, ensure accountability and bridge humanitarian and development systems.

UNDP supports reinforcing and sustaining national and local capacities for GBV prevention and response in displacement-affected contexts. It strengthens justice and security actors, expands legal aid and paralegal support, reinforces community-based dispute resolution, promotes women's leadership, improves coordination and trust with local authorities, and enhances mobile and community-level justice services to ensure survivors can safely seek protection, services and justice.



Enabler 1

Accelerate development finance for solutions to displacement and local development

Private sector investment

Sustainable solutions require predictable financing and stronger private-sector participation. The framework positions the private sector not only as a source of funding but as a key partner for inclusive growth in displacement-affected areas. By promoting responsible investment in emerging markets, UNDP supports businesses to generate employment, expand value chains, and provide essential goods and services in fragile contexts. Through de-risking mechanisms, impact investment, and public-private partnerships, UNDP, in partnership with actors such as UNCDF, helps transform displacement-affected areas from perceived risks into viable economic opportunities.

International Financial Institutions and Vertical Funds

Partnerships with the African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, World Bank Group, and other international financial institutions are essential to scale financing for displacement-sensitive development. UNDP advocates for greater prioritization of displacement-affected regions in IFI strategies and facilitates access to concessional and blended financing. Engagement with climate-related vertical funds ensures that displacement is integrated into national climate adaptation and resilience programmes, linking humanitarian needs with long-term development and environmental goals. High-level platforms such as the Africa Climate Summit and the Conference of the Parties (COP) processes will be used to advocate for increased financing in displacement-affected areas.

National development banks

National development banks play a vital role in expanding sustainable financing at country level. UNDP encourages these institutions

to design inclusive financing strategies and establish dedicated windows for micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises led by displaced persons, returnees, women, and youth. By strengthening their risk assessment and investment management capacities, UNDP helps national development banks extend their portfolios to displacement-affected regions. This complements international funding and fosters nationally owned, long-term recovery.

Enabler 2

Facilitate regional, evidence-based policy advocacy and institutional capacity-building

Collaboration and capacity-building of continental and regional organizations

Regional cooperation is essential to ensure that displacement is addressed coherently across borders. The framework strengthens the capacity of the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities, such as EAC, ECOWAS, ICGLR, IGAD, and SADC to provide coordinated policy and operational guidance to their member states. UNDP supports these institutions in developing continental and regional frameworks or implementation mechanisms which integrate displacement, as well as support in promoting policy alignment, and facilitating peer learning and cross-border coordination. By integrating displacement in regional agendas on climate adaptation, resilience, and governance, the framework ensures coherence between national, regional, and continental action.

Collecting and sharing quantitative and qualitative data, including scalable and adaptable good practices

Reliable data and actionable knowledge are prerequisites for effective policymaking and programming. The framework promotes the collection and sharing of quantitative and qualitative data in partnership with governments, academic institutions, and research networks. UNDP, in partnership with organisations such as the Mixed Migration Centre, supports

the creation of regional knowledge and data platforms that consolidate evidence, document scalable good practices, and enable governments and practitioners to access lessons learned across the continent. By promoting standardized methodologies, longitudinal data collection, and responsible data-sharing frameworks, it ensures evidence informs national and regional strategies while strengthening accountability and transparency.

Support integration of displacement considerations in data analysis of African regional institutions to reduce dependency on external actors

UNDP works with African regional institutions to integrate displacement more systematically into ongoing research and analysis on crisis, climate, and development. By providing technical assistance and training, UNDP helps build the analytical capacities of regional bodies to interpret and use displacement data, reducing reliance on external actors. This promotes ownership of data and policy processes and ensures that evidence is grounded in local realities. Strengthening analytical ecosystems across the continent ultimately enhances the impact of development responses to displacement.



06

Partnerships

The framework's effectiveness relies on broad, layered, and operational partnerships. At the continental and regional levels, UNDP will build on its collaboration with the African Union Commission, particularly in advancing the domestication of the Kampala Convention on Internal Displacement and the Migration Policy Framework for Africa. Cooperation with regional organizations, such as with IGAD on the Nairobi Support Platform, SADC on the Regional Programme on Displacement, Fragility Mitigation and Crisis Resilience, and ICGLR on the Regional Strategy on Comprehensive Durable Solutions, as well as EAC and ECOWAS, will be deepened to integrate displacement, development, and resilience approaches into their agendas. These partnerships provide critical platforms for policy dialogue, peer learning, and cross-border coordination.

Within the UN system, collaboration and a One-UN approach ensures complementarity between humanitarian and development actions: UNHCR, IOM, UNCDF, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNWOMEN and UNICEF are among the UN agencies who will contribute to the operationalization of the framework. Bilateral partnership frameworks, such as the renewed UNDP-UNHCR Global Collaboration Framework 2026-2028, will equally be leveraged. Partnerships with international financial institutions, including the African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and World Bank Group, national development banks, where applicable, and vertical funds such as the Green Climate Fund, Global

Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund, and Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage will be leveraged to enable sustainable investments in displacement-affected areas.

UNDP partners with national and local governments as both a technical advisor and implementation partner to strengthen institutions, align policies with the SDGs, and promote inclusive, resilient development. The framework supports integration of displacement, climate adaptation, governance, economic development and gender equality into planning, while building local capacity and fostering social cohesion. Through participatory processes, evidence-based guidance, and scalable solutions, UNDP emphasizes national ownership while leveraging its development expertise.

Civil society and community-based organizations will remain central to ensuring local ownership and accountability. Their proximity to affected populations enables participatory planning and the identification of context-appropriate solutions. Collaboration with academic institutions, including the Nordic Africa Institute and research centres on the continent, will support data generation and policy analysis, ensuring that knowledge informs programming. Finally, the private sector (e.g. fintech) and bilateral development partners – such as GIZ, SIDA, AFD, Enabel, JICA, KOICA – will be key allies in mobilizing finance, innovation, and technical expertise for integrated, sustainable solutions.



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