A word from the Director

What does our future look like? By 2030, only 9 years ahead, Africa’s Youth population (15-24 years) will have increased by 42%. If harnessed for its full potential, Africa’s youth will be the cohort that broke the commodity curse; the cycles of poverty; and the strong man of inequality.

Africa’s youth are leading the fourth industrial revolution. This past month alone, Tanzania, Malawi, and The Gambia showcased, through UNDP Accelerator Labs, home-grown solutions for the continent’s unique challenges.

This edition of UNDP’s RBA Digest recognizes youth, for their potential and expertise, and for their role as leaders, including in bringing peace in conflict-stricken areas. Our role, as development practitioners, is to bring the weight of programming in support for their ingenuity. We are disrupting the way we work, ceding to a new reality – of youth as the spine of our offering.

Ahunna Eziakonwa

Spotlight on the Stabilization Academy

Offering communities the ability to return home to safety, is an asset of immeasurable value in areas facing violent conflict. UNDP is working to uncover new solutions through our work on stabilization. It embodies part of our contribution to the humanitarian, development and peace nexus and is the subject of a strong partnership between UNDP Africa, our Crisis Bureau and the German Foreign Affairs Office. Together, we launched the Stabilization Academy – which graduated over 60 UNDP staff in June, coming from Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Chad and the Dakar Regional Hub, after an eight weeks intensive tailor-made training course. UNDP is much better equipped to deliver development solutions in complex crisis settings.

A young woman in Somalia leads in dispute resolution

Young people across the continent are demanding peace: refusing to inherit instability. Khowla Mohamed Abdow, 25, is the coordinator of a centre where opposing parties can talk things through in South West Somalia, sometimes de-escalating situations that could turn into serious violence. Khowla is an example of the power of women in leadership. Follow her journey...

Guinea Bissau hosts first inter-generational dialogues on Pan-Africanism

Guinea Bissau’s youth corps is pressing for representation – not only as voices in parliament, but as citizens aspiring for leadership – at the very top; pushing for reforms; and bringing democratic transitions about. Be inspired...

When youth take command of their destinies in South Sudan

Over 100 prisoners in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State graduated from a UNDP-supported vocational training this month - with several resolving to chart a new path, and purpose, in their lives. Vocational training facilitates rehabilitation of inmates into society when released, establishing long-lasting foundations for a more peaceful society. Learn more...