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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
High-level panel 1: Scaling up transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

Summary of the report on African progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

I. Introduction

1. With only five years remaining to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] although Africa is making progress towards 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the current pace of progress is insufficient to achieve the Goals by 2030. The theme of the 2026 high-level political forum on sustainable development, "Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all," is therefore highly relevant.

2. The present report includes an assessment of African performance relating to the five Sustainable Development Goals that are the areas of focus of the high-level political forum in 2026 – Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 – and the related goals of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.[2] Although gaps in high-quality, official data limit a full analysis, the report provides a comparative overview across global regions and African subregions.[3]

* ECA/RFSD/2026/1/Rev.1.

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[2] For details of the goals of Agenda 2063 and their associated aspirations, moonshots and strategic objectives, see African Union, *Decade of Accelerated Implementation: Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2024–2033* (Addis Ababa, 2024), p. 21.

[3] Unless otherwise indicated, the findings in this report were sourced from the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database of the United Nations, available at https://ecastats. uneca.org /africaundata/SDGs (accessed on 2 February 2026) and https://unstats. un.org/sdgs/dataportal (accessed on 4 February 2026), respectively.

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II. Clean water and sanitation

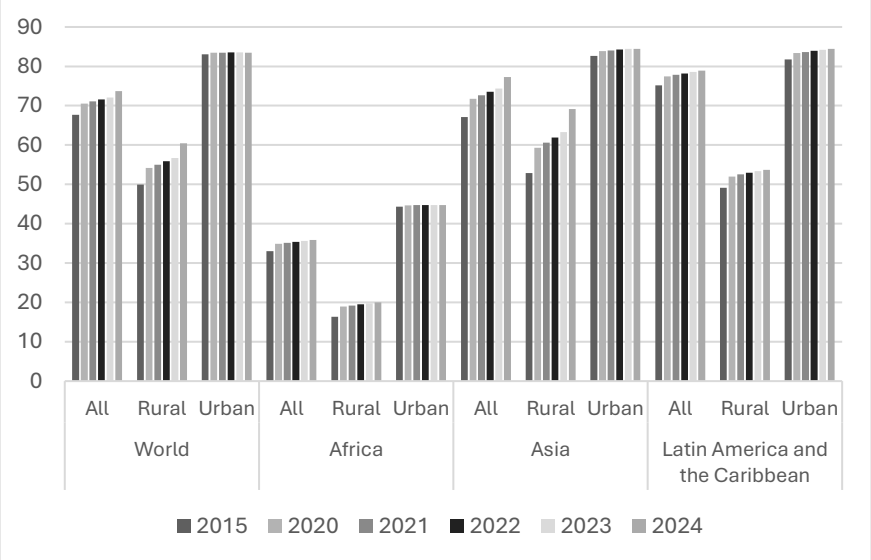
Table 1
Sustainable Development Goal 6 and associated strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	*Agenda 2063*
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	1.5: Build the climate resilience of economies and communities 2.3: Build world-class infrastructure that criss-crosses Africa 6.2: Ensure healthy lives and promote nutrition

A. Sustainable Development Goals targets 6.1 and 6.2 and indicators 6.1.1 and 6.2.1

3. Africa has made modest but insufficient progress in improving access to safe drinking water. The proportion of the population with access increased from 33.0 per cent in 2015 to 35.9 per cent in 2024, which was well below the global average and the gains achieved in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, as shown in figure 1. Sharp urban-rural disparities have persisted, with rural access remaining particularly low (20.0 per cent in 2024), underscoring the need to scale up investments and policies to ensure equitable and sustainable water security.

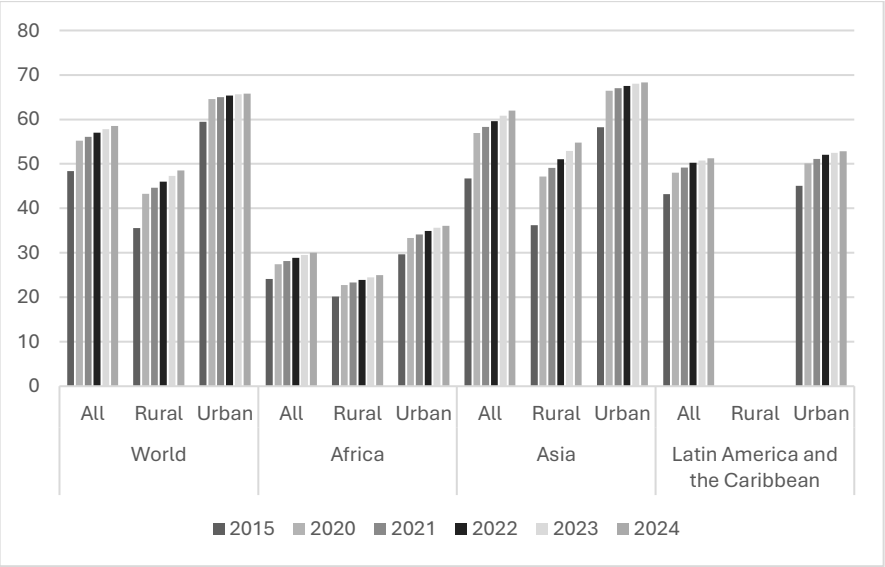
Figure 1
Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services, globally and in selected regions, 2015 and 2020–2024
(Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database. Available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database (accessed on 4 February 2026).

4. Access to safely managed sanitation remains a challenge. A target was included in the first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) of Agenda 2063 to reduce the size of the population with poor sanitation by 96 per cent. Despite the progress made, the results are far from that objective, and the situation in Africa is more critical when compared with the global average and other regions, as can be seen in figure 2.

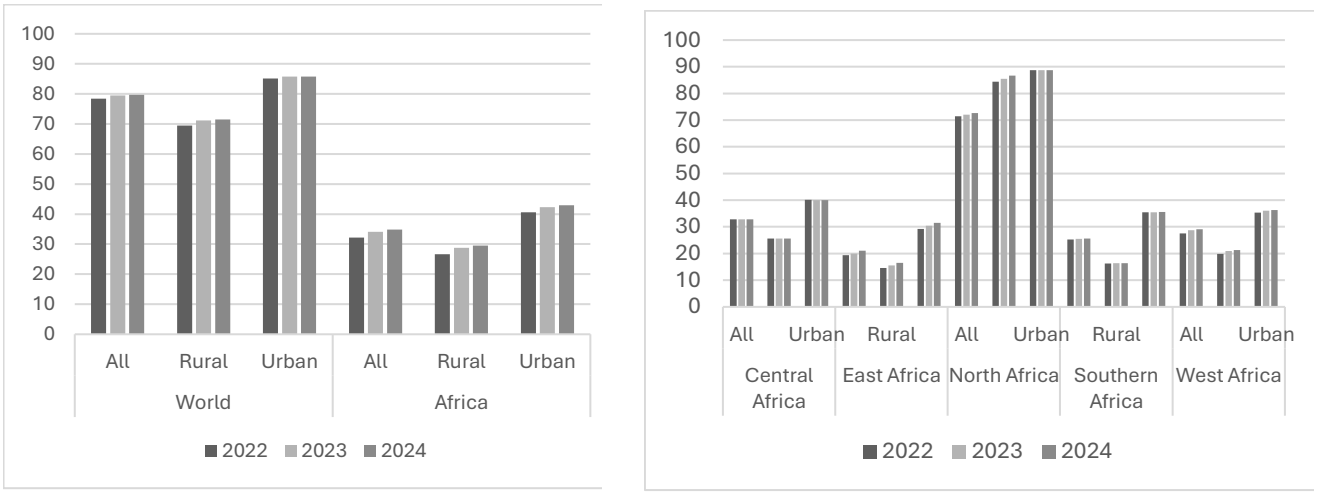
Figure 2
Proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services, globally and in selected regions, 2015 and 2020–2024
(Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

5. The population of Africa that had access to basic handwashing facilities on premises was 34.9 per cent in 2024, which was less than half the global average of 79.7 per cent. Coverage varied considerably across Africa: among the continent's subregions, North Africa, at 72.6 per cent, was closest to the global average and it had the smallest gap between urban (88.7 per cent) and rural (86.7 per cent) areas, as shown in figure 3.

Figure 3
Proportion of the population with basic handwashing facilities on premises, globally and in Africa, 2022–2024
(Percentage)

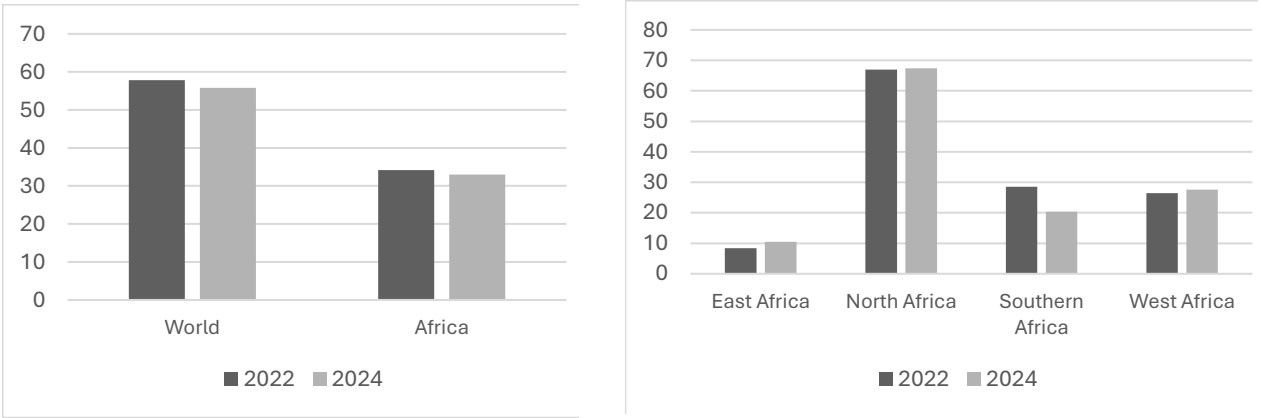


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

B. Sustainable Development Goals target 6.3 and indicator 6.3.1

6. In 2024, only 33.0 per cent of domestic wastewater in Africa was safely treated, a level that had barely changed since 2022 and that was significantly below the global average of 55.8 per cent. Subregional disparities persisted, with North Africa performing relatively well, while Southern, East and West Africa remained at low treatment levels, as shown in figure 4. Data gaps constrained analysis for Central Africa.

Figure 4
Proportion of safely treated domestic wastewater flows, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2022 and 2024
(Percentage)

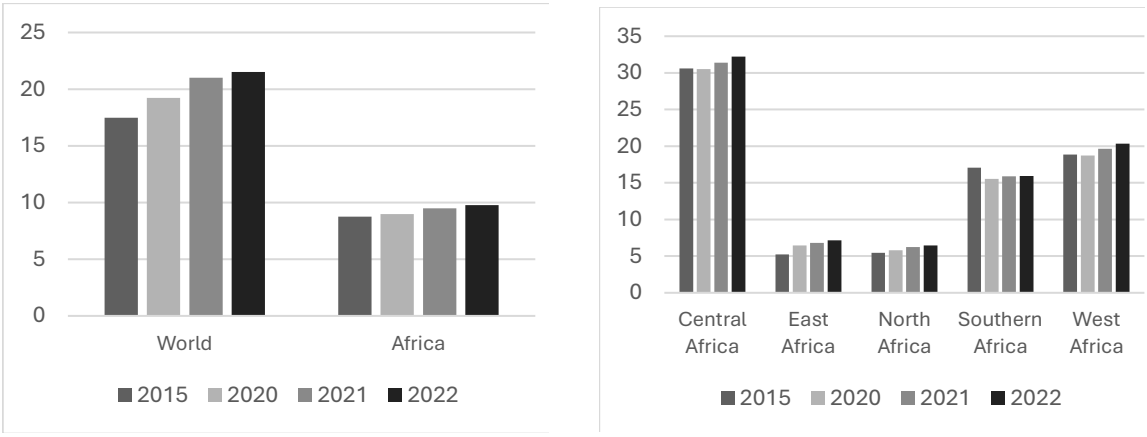


Source: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database. Available at https://ecastats. uneca.org/data/data-products/sdgs/24 (accessed on 2 February 2026).
Note: Data for 2022 and 2024 are not available for Central Africa.

C. Sustainable Development Goals target 6.4 and indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2

7. Water use efficiency improved modestly in Africa from $8.75/m³ in 2015 to $9.76/m³ in 2022, but it remained well below the global average of $21.52/m³ in 2022. Subregional disparities persisted, with Central Africa the most efficient and North Africa, despite its acute water scarcity, the least efficient, as shown in figure 5.

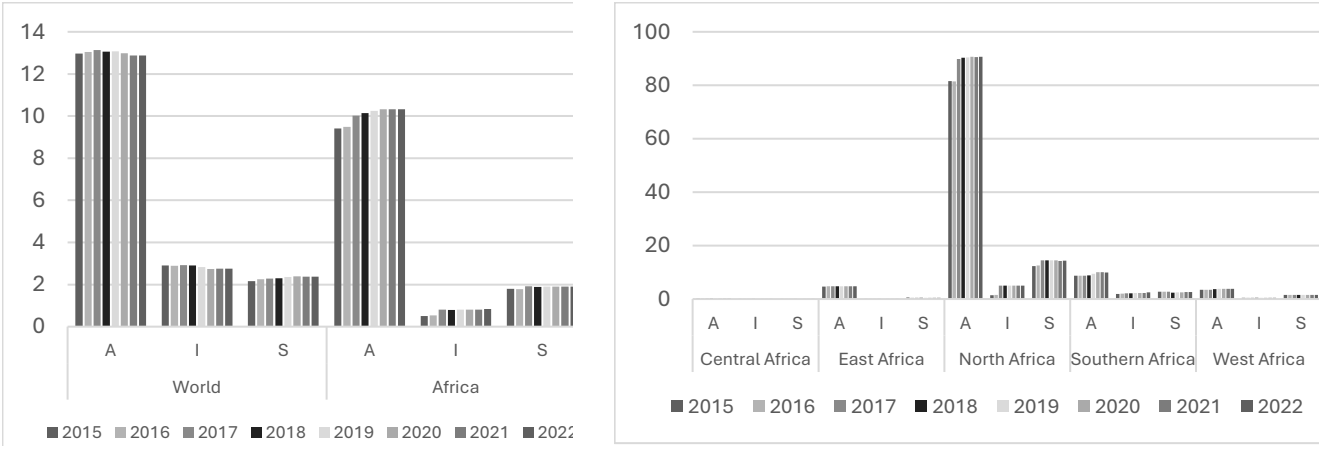
Figure 5
Water use efficiency, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2015 and 2020–2022
(United States dollars per cubic metre)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

8. In 2022, the average water stress level in Africa remained below the global average across all sectors, as shown in figure 6. At the subregional level, North Africa faced a critical situation, with agricultural water stress exceeding 90 per cent, reflecting severe overexploitation of renewable freshwater resources. The other subregions recorded overall stress levels of below 20 per cent.

Figure 6
Freshwater withdrawal, globally and in Africa and its subregions, by sector, 2015–2022
(Percentage of resources)

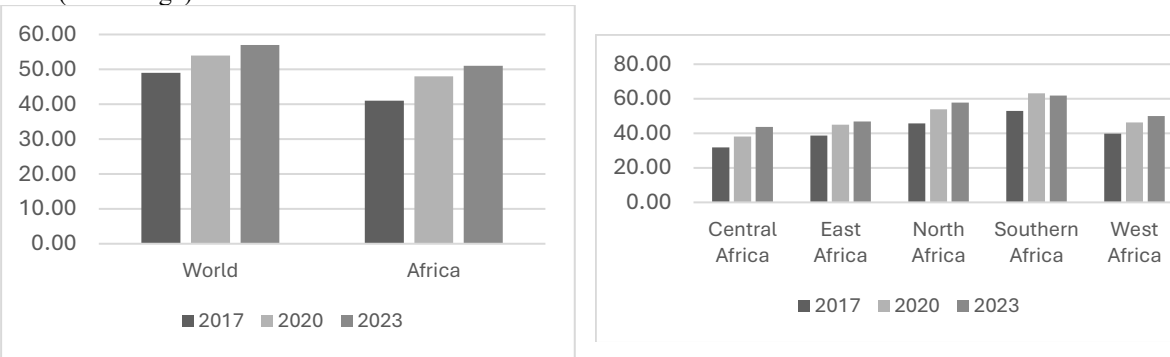


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).
Abbreviations: Agr., Agriculture; Ind., Industry; Srv., Services.

D. Sustainable Development Goals target 6.5 and indicator 6.5.1

9. The implementation of integrated water resources management in Africa has improved gradually, rising from 41 per cent in 2017 to 51 per cent in 2023, but it remained slightly below the global average of 57 per cent in 2023. Progress has been uneven across the subregions, with Southern and North Africa leading, as shown in figure 7.

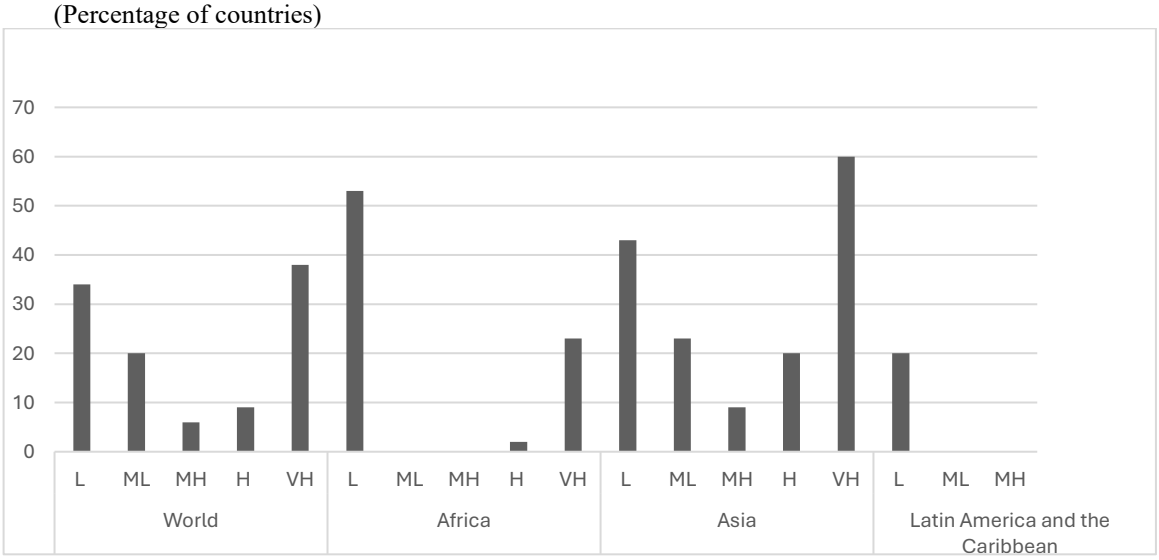
Figure 7
Degree of integrated water resources management implementation, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2017, 2020 and 2023
(Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

10. Some 53 per cent of African countries had a medium-high level of implementation of integrated water resources management in 2023, which was above the global proportion of 34 per cent, and the proportions in Asia (43 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (20 per cent), as shown in figure 8. The lack of data on high and very high levels, however, highlights the need to strengthen climate adaptation and risk management strategies for better water governance.

Figure 8
Distribution of integrated water resources management by level of implementation, globally and selected regions, 2023
(Percentage of countries)



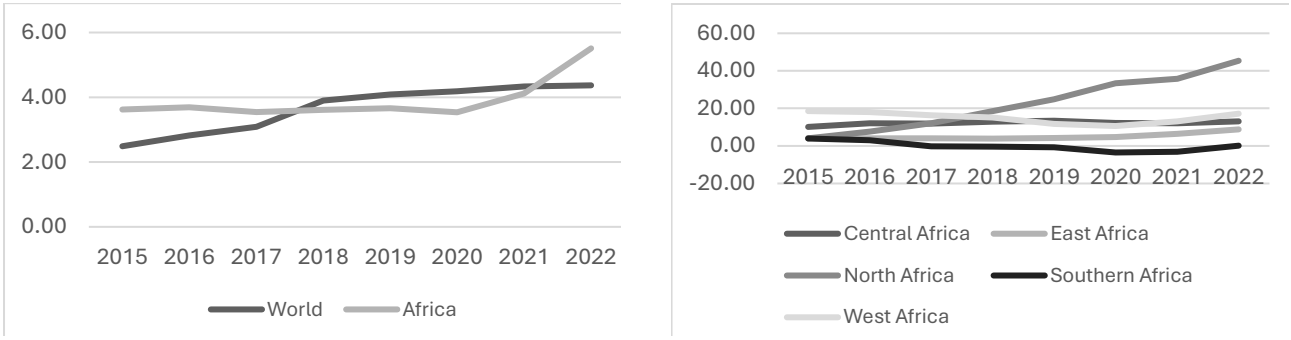
Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

Abbreviations: L, Low; ML, Medium-low; Medium-high, MH; H, High; VH, Very high.

E. Sustainable Development Goals target 6.6 and indicator 6.6.1

11. Water-related ecosystems in Africa were above the global average in terms of permanent water area. The surface area of permanent lakes and rivers grew from 3.6 per cent in 2015 to 5.5 per cent in 2022, as shown in figure 9, but strong subregional disparities remained: in North Africa, the area increased rapidly, from 4.05 per cent in 2015 to 45.38 per cent in 2022, whereas it fell in Southern Africa from 3.0 per cent in 2015 to 0.2 per cent in 2022, including a dip to -3.50 per cent in 2020, owing to climate variability, overexploitation of water resources and anthropogenic pressures.

Figure 9
Permanent water area change in lakes and rivers, globally and in Africa, 2015–2022
(Percentage)

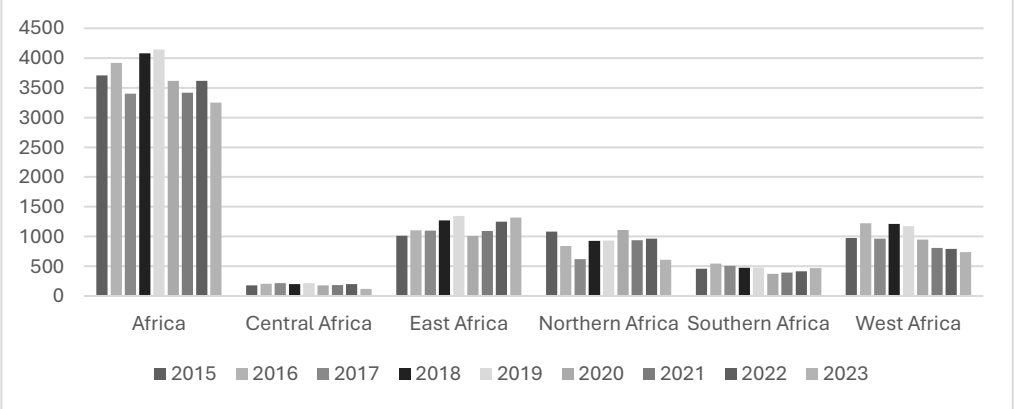


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

F. Sustainable Development Goals targets 6.a and 6.b and indicators 6.a.1 and 6.b.1

12. The gross disbursement of total official development assistance (ODA) for water supply and sanitation to the continent peaked at $4.14 billion in 2019. As shown in figure 10, it fell to $3.25 billion in 2023, representing a 12.2 percent decrease from the 2015 level of $ 3.71 billion.

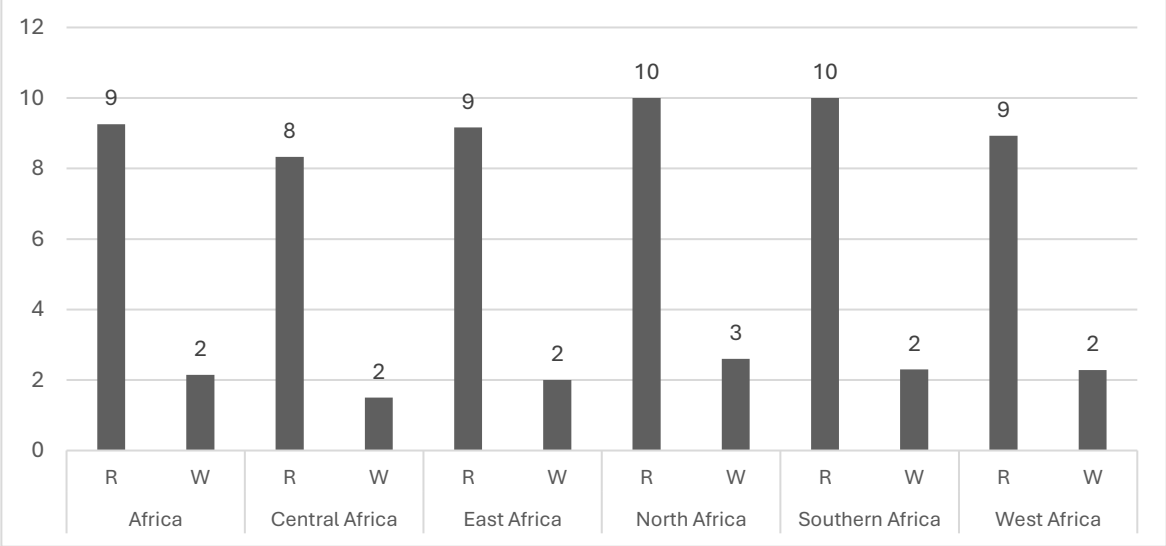
Figure 10
Official development assistance for water and sanitation by recipient, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2015–2023
(Millions of constant 2023 United States dollars)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

13. In 2022, North Africa and Southern Africa were above the continental average for the clarity of procedures for participation in the planning of rural drinking water programmes and the level of user or community participation. East and West Africa performed similarly to that average. Central Africa was below the average, as shown in figure 11.

Figure 11
Assessment of the clarity of procedures for participation in the planning of rural drinking water programmes[a] and the level of user or community participation,[b] Africa and its subregions, 2022



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

Abbreviations: R, Rural drinking water planning; W, Water resources planning.

[a] Measured on a scale from 0 to 10.

[b] Measured on a scale from 0 to 3.

G. Overall prospects

14. African progress towards achieving Goal 6 since 2015 has been slow and uneven. Modest gains in water access, efficiency and the implementation of integrated water resources management have been made, compared with little progress on sanitation and wastewater management, while disparities have persisted among subregions and between urban and rural settings. Limited financing, data gaps and implementation shortfalls have limited the impact of improvement measures, underscoring the need for accelerated, targeted action.

III. Affordable and clean energy

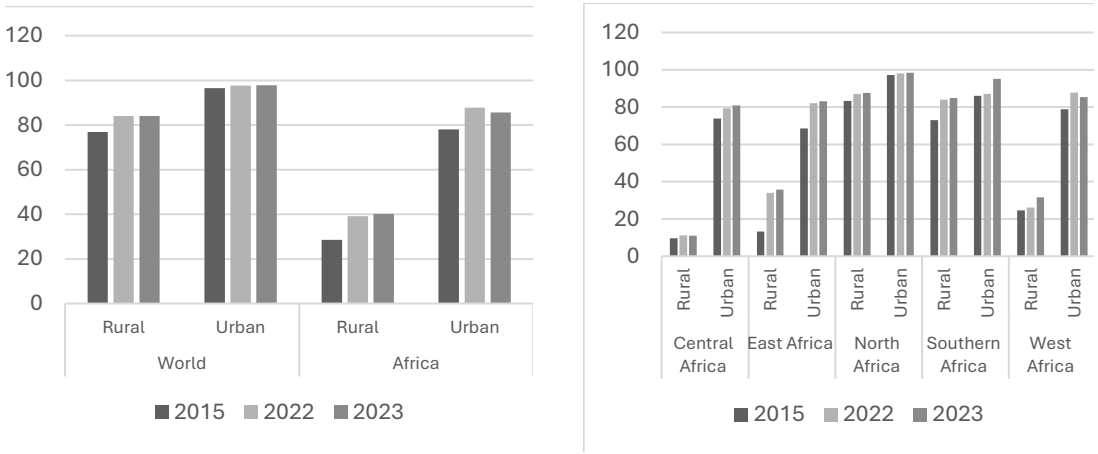
Table 2
Sustainable Development Goal 7 and associated strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	*Agenda 2063*
Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	1.2: Transform economies 2.3: Build world-class infrastructure that criss-crosses Africa 1.5: Build the climate resilience of economies and communities

A. Sustainable Development Goals target 7.1 and indicators 7.1.1 and 7.1.2

15. Although there were notable gains in electricity access in 2023 in Africa, with rates reaching 40.1 per cent in rural areas and 85.6 per cent in urban areas, significant urban-rural disparities persisted. Access remained far below global levels, with North and Southern Africa performing best on the continent, as shown in figure 12.

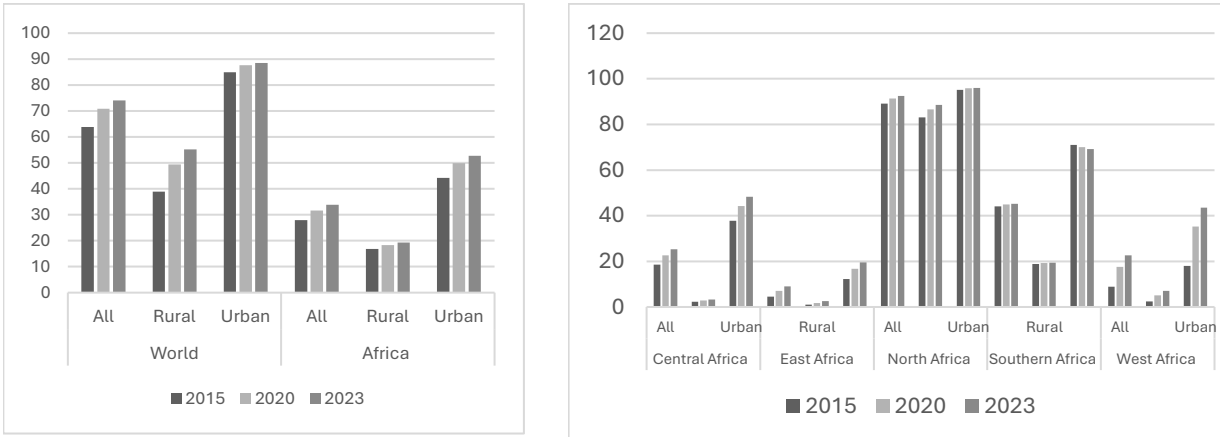
Figure 12
Access to electricity in rural and urban areas, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2015, 2022 and 2023
(Percentage of population)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

16. Usage of clean fuels and technologies in Africa increased from 28.0 per cent in 2015 to 33.9 per cent in 2023, but remained lower than the global average. Among the subregions, North Africa led with 92.5 per cent coverage and minimal gaps between urban and rural areas, but notable disparities at the subregional level and between rural and urban areas persisted. The lowest usage was in East Africa, as shown in figure 13.

Figure 13
Proportion of the population using clean fuels and technologies, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2015, 2020 and 2023
(Percentage)

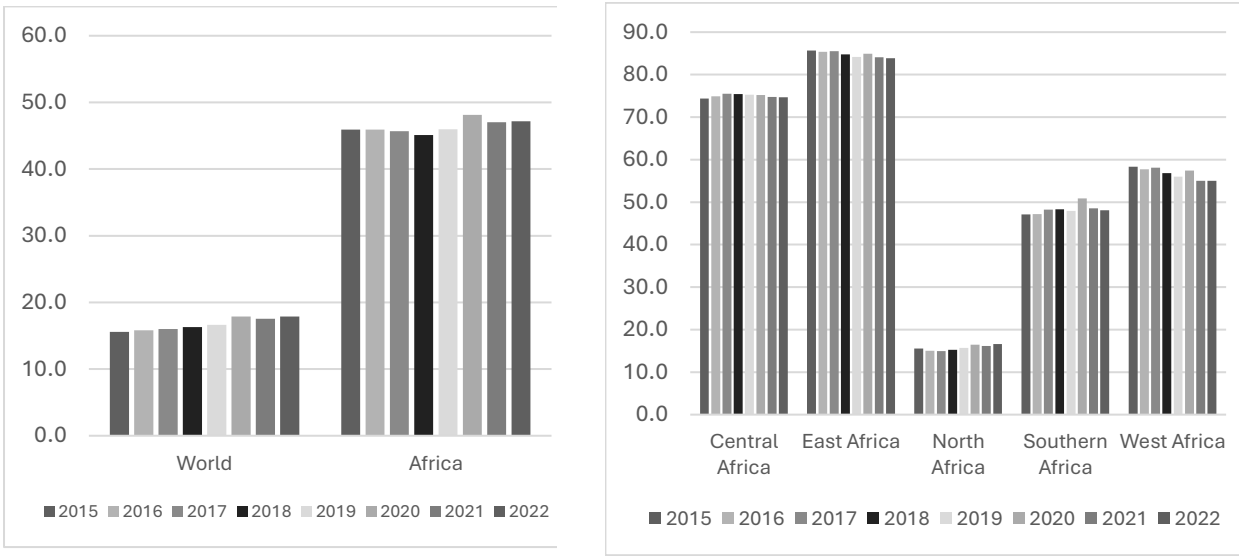


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

B. Sustainable Development Goals target 7.2 and indicator 7.2.1

17. Global fossil fuel dependence has continued, despite the ability of renewable energy sources to facilitate a just transition and reduce energy poverty. Renewable energy in Africa accounted for 47.2 per cent of all energy use in 2022, above the global average of 17.9 per cent. East Africa led the subregions, at 83.8 per cent, followed by Central Africa, at 74.7 per cent, as shown in figure 14.

Figure 14
Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2015–2022
(Percentage)

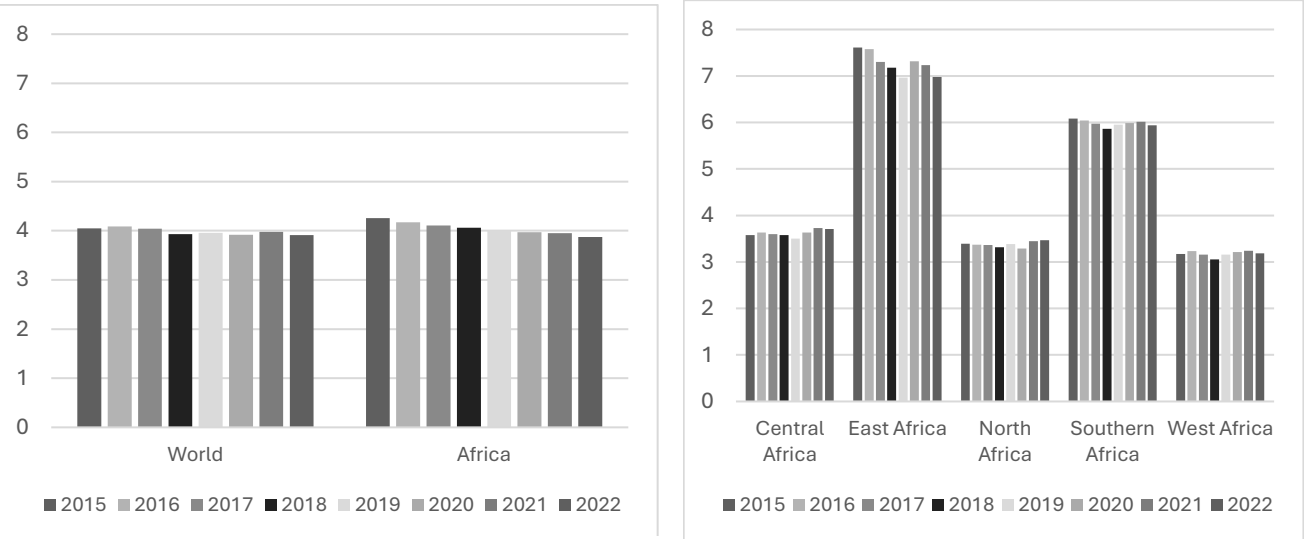


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

C. Sustainable Development Goals target 7.3 and indicator 7.3.1

18. Energy intensity in Africa fell from 4.05 to 3.91 megajoules per constant 2017 United States dollars of gross domestic product (at purchasing power parity) from 2015 to 2022, showing an improvement in the efficiency of energy use. The performance of the subregions has been fairly consistent since 2015, with the highest intensity recorded in East Africa, as shown in figure 15.

Figure 15
Energy intensity level of primary energy, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2015 and 2019–2022
(Megajoules per constant 2017 United States dollars of gross domestic product, at purchasing power parity)

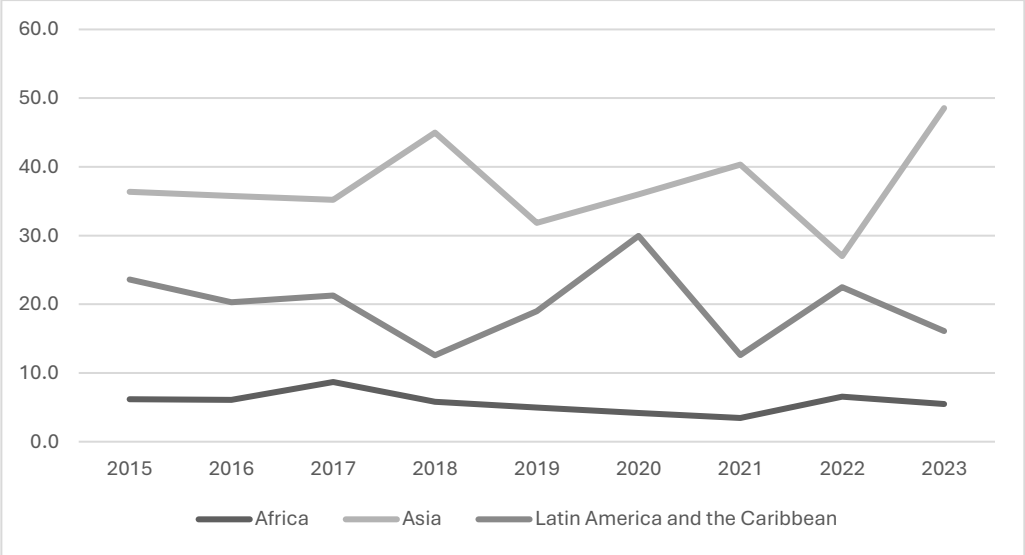


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

D. Sustainable Development Goals targets 7.a and 7.b and indicators 7.a.1 and 7.b.1

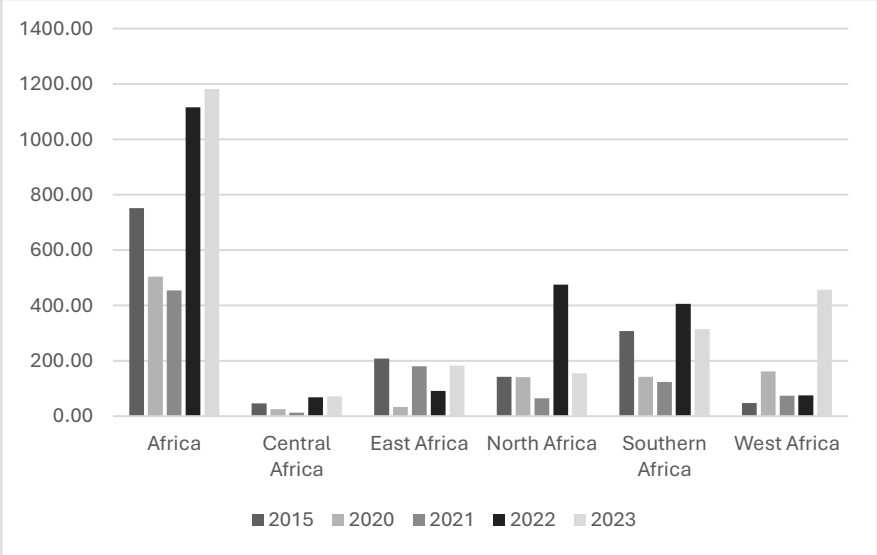
19. Africa requires significant investment to achieve universal access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy. In 2023, international financial flows for clean energy to the continent remained low, at 5.5 per cent of global support, as shown in figure 16. At the subregional level that year, Central Africa received the least, and West Africa received the most, as shown in figure 17.

Figure 16
Share of international financial flows to support research and development in clean energy and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems, by destination region 2015–2023
(Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

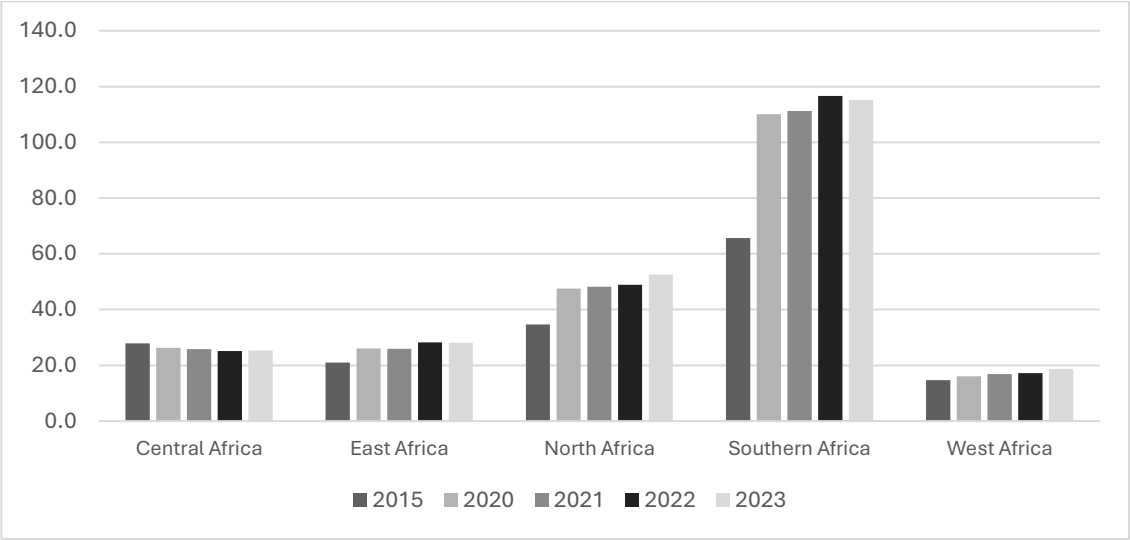
Figure 17
International finance for clean energy research and development, and renewables, to Africa and its subregions, 2015 and 2020–2023
(Millions of constant 2022 United States dollars)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

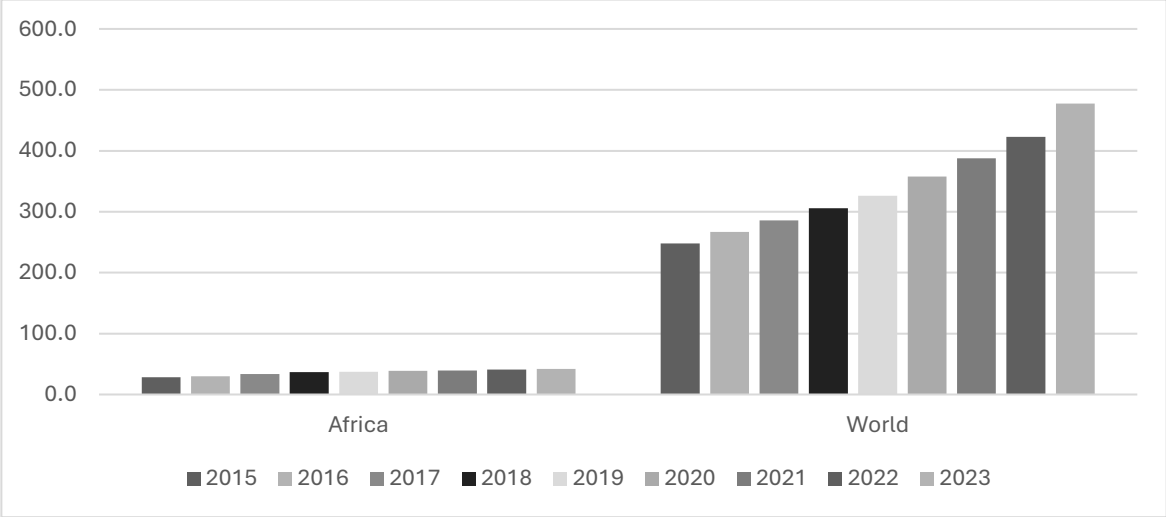
20. Installed renewable electricity capacity in Africa rose from 28.5 watts per capita in 2015 to 41.9 watts per capita in 2023, as shown in figure 18, driven predominantly by growth in hydropower. The capacity remained below the global average, however, and, as a share of global capacity, it fell from 11.4 to 8.7 per cent over the same period. Southern Africa led the growth, with 115.1 watts per capita, followed by North Africa, with 52.6 watts per capita, in 2023, as shown in figure 19.

Figure 18
Installed renewable electricity capacity, globally and in Africa, 2015–2023
(Watts per capita)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

Figure 19
Installed renewable electricity capacity, by African subregion, 2015 and 2020–2023
(Watts per capita)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

E. Overall progress

21. Africa must accelerate efforts to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy while addressing disparities at the subregional level and between rural and urban settings. Expanding renewable energy, improving efficiency and investing in clean energy infrastructure are critical to supporting a just transition, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and promoting equitable, low-carbon growth.

IV. Industry, innovation and infrastructure

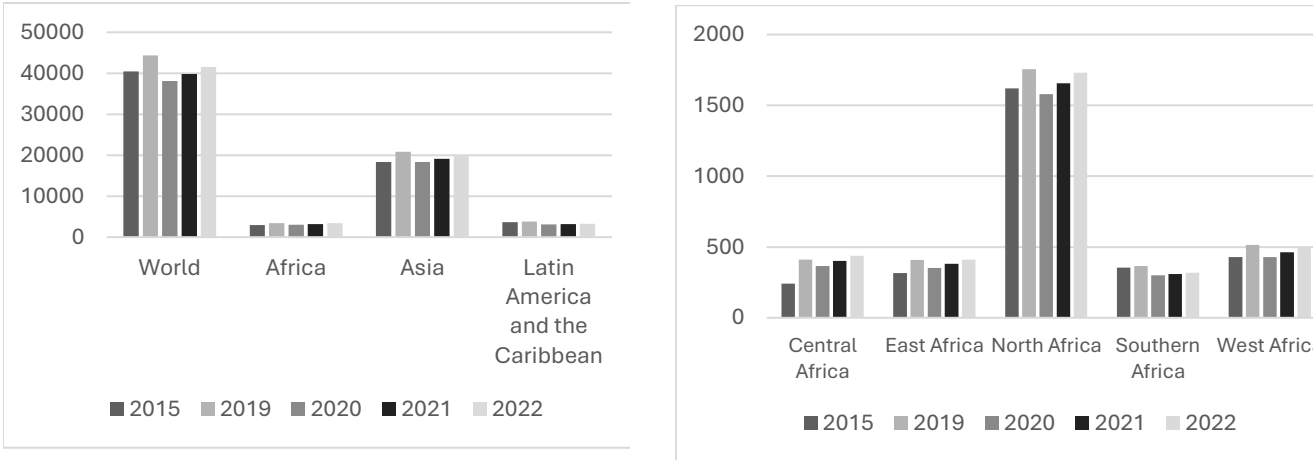
Table 3
Sustainable Development Goal 9 and associated strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	*Agenda 2063*
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	1.2: Transform economies 2.3: Build world-class infrastructure that criss-crosses Africa 6.1: Educate and skill citizens, underpinned by science and innovation

A. Sustainable Development Goals target 9.1 and indicator 9.1.2

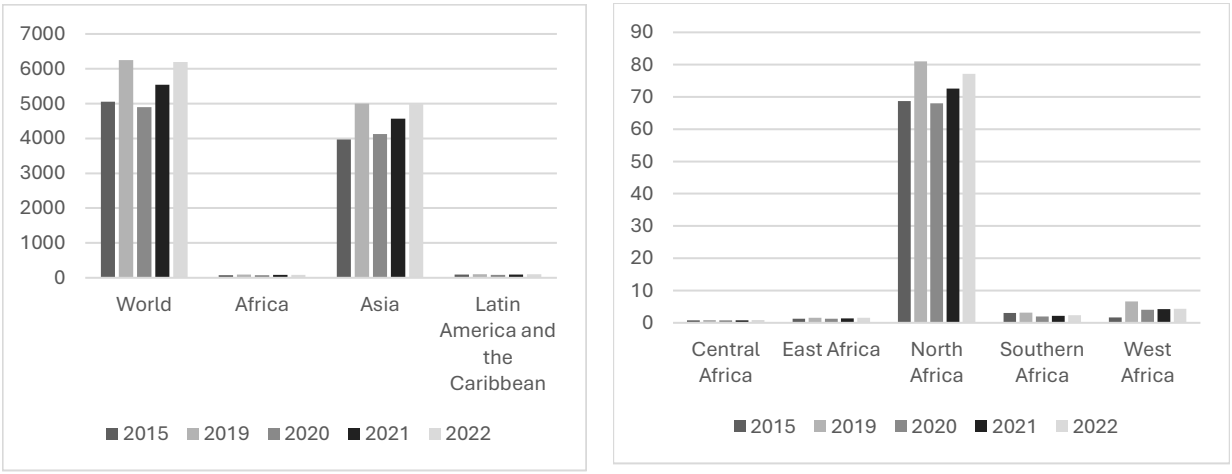
22. Across all African subregions, road transport has been significantly more common than rail or air transport. North Africa has stood out, accounting for over 50 per cent of total African road transport volume and nearly 90 per cent of African rail transport in in 2022, as shown in figures 20 and 21. North Africa and East Africa have dominated air transport, with respective volumes of 76 billion and 75 billion passenger-kilometres in 2022, as shown in figure 22.

Figure 20
Road passenger volume, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally,2015 and 2019–2022
(Billions of passenger-kilometres)



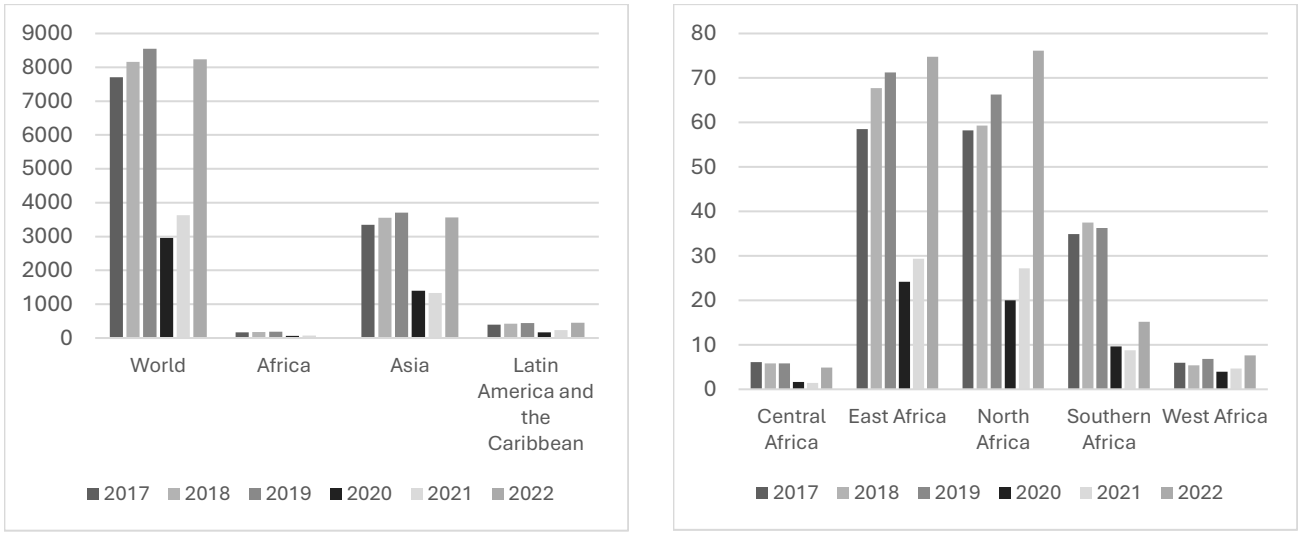
Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

Figure 21
Rail passenger volume, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2015 and 2019–2022
(Billions of passenger-kilometres)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

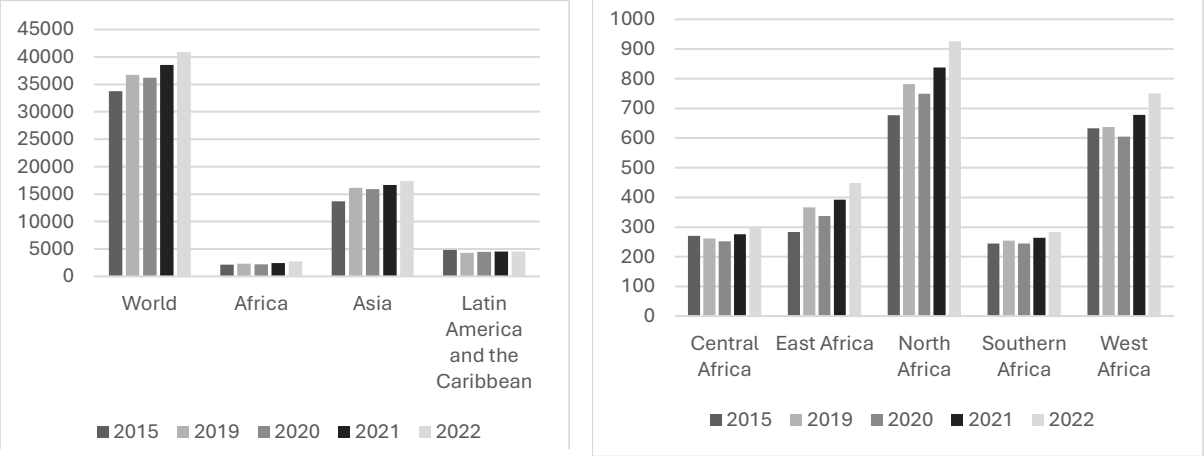
Figure 22
Air passenger volume, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 20172022
(Billions of passenger-kilometres)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

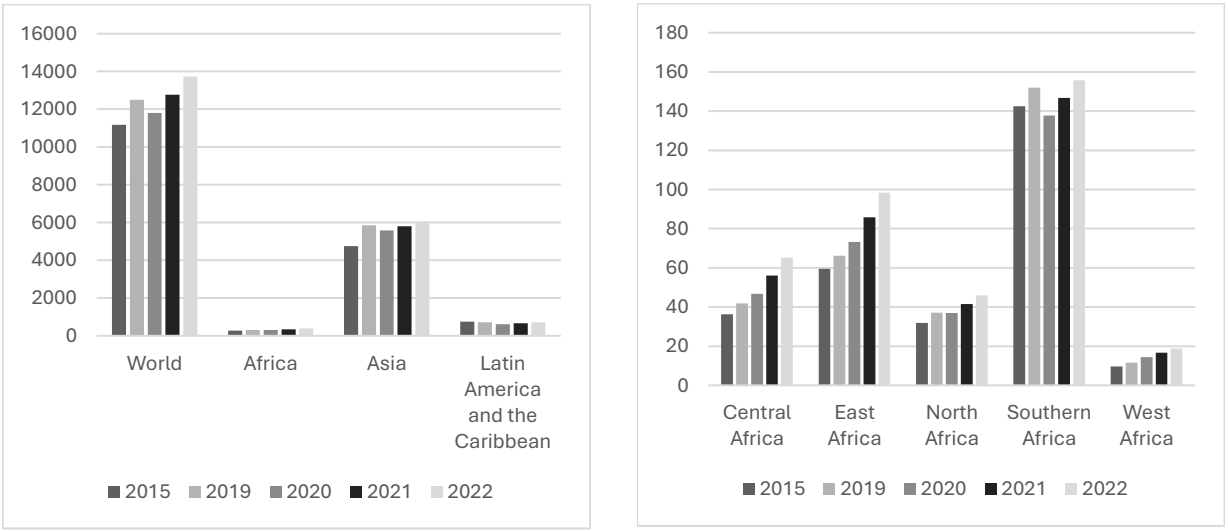
23. There have been significant subregional disparities relating to freight volumes in Africa. North and West Africa dominated road freight, as shown in figure 23, whereas Southern Africa has been notable for rail transport, as shown in figure 24. Air freight has been primarily driven by East Africa, where it reached a peak of 5 billion ton-kilometres in 2022, as shown in figure 25, a result that was largely attributable to the activities of Ethiopian Airlines. West Africa, in contrast, has been predominant in inland waterways, accounting for over 46.6 per cent of the total continental volume in 2022, as shown in figure 26, owing to its deepwater ports, in particular Lomé.

Figure 23
Road freight volume, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2015 and 2019–2022
(Billions of ton-kilometres)



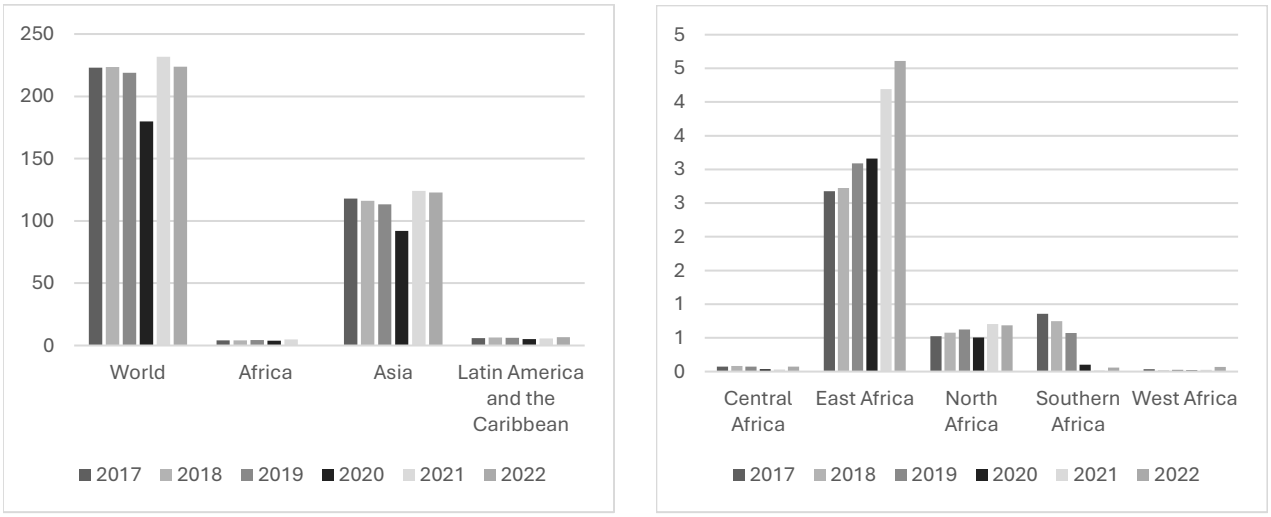
Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

Figure 24
Rail freight volume, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2015 and 2019–2022
(Billions of ton-kilometres)



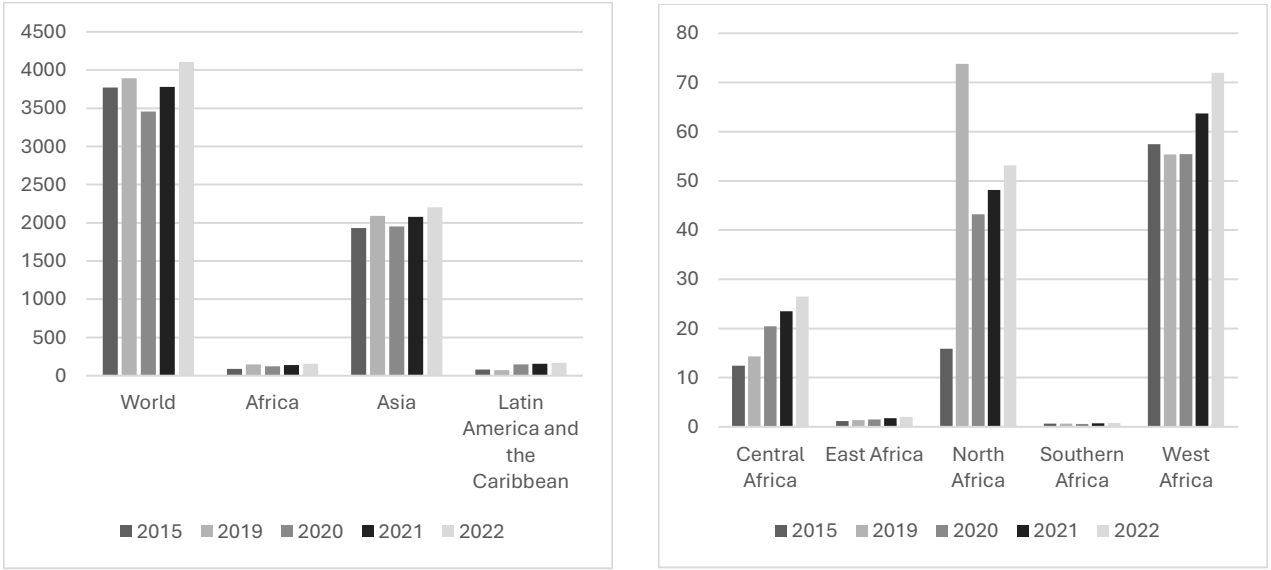
Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

Figure 25
Air freight volume, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2017–2022
(Billions of ton-kilometres)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

Figure 26
Inland waterway freight volume, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2015 and 2019–2022
(Billions of ton-kilometres)



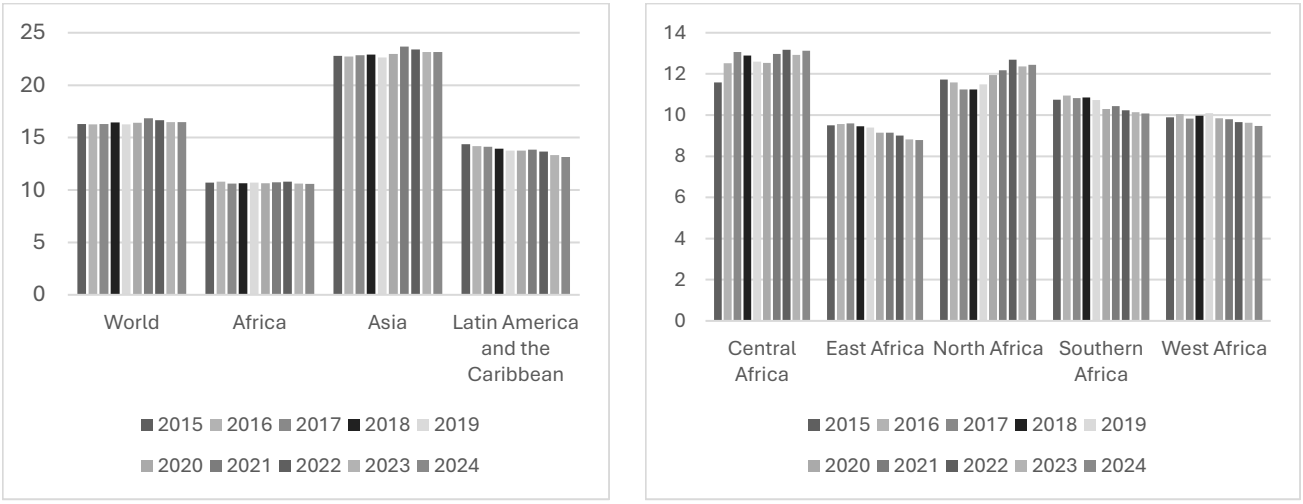
Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

B. Sustainable Development Goals target 9.2 and indicators 9.2.1 and 9.2.2

24. Manufacturing value added as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) was 10.58 per cent in Africa in 2024, which was below the global average and the averages for Asia and for Latin America and the Caribbean, as shown in figure 27. Subregional disparities were stark, with Central Africa having the

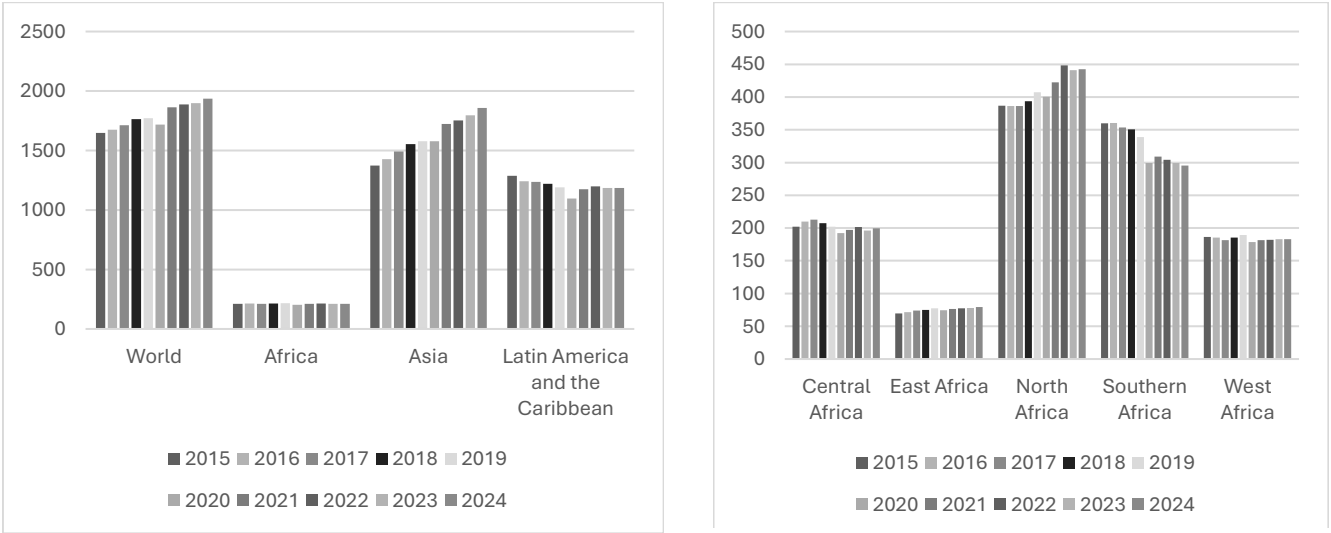
highest share, at 13.12 per cent, and East Africa having the lowest share, at 8.78 per cent, in 2024. When manufacturing value added was measured against population size, however, North Africa had the highest value added per capita, at $442.28, and East Africa had the lowest, at $79.25, in 2024, as shown in figure 28.

Figure 27
Manufacturing value added, in constant 2015 United States dollars, as a proportion of gross domestic product, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2015 and 2020–2024
(Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

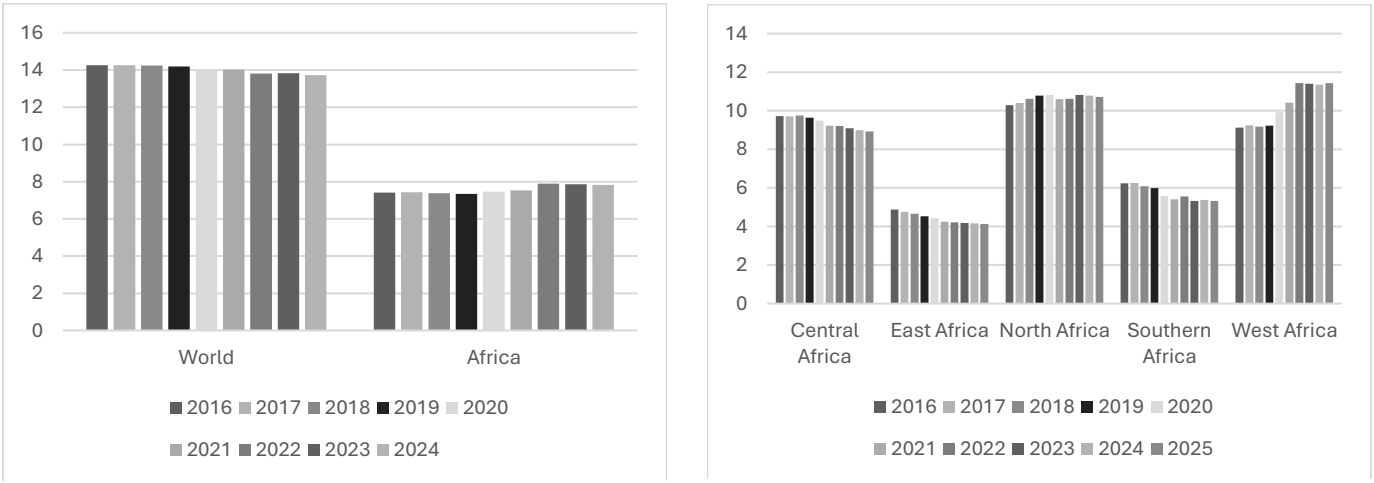
Figure 28
Manufacturing value added per capita, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2015 and 2020–2024
(Constant 2015 United States dollars)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

25. In 2025, manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment was 7.81 per cent in Africa, which was below the global average of 13.66 per cent, as shown in figure 29.[4] Subregional disparities have persisted: Central, North and West Africa have exceeded the continental average, whereas East and Southern Africa have lagged, underscoring the need to reinforce industrial strategies that create jobs, in line, for example, with the objectives of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Figure 29
Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment, in Africa and its subregions and globally, 2016–2025
(Percentage)



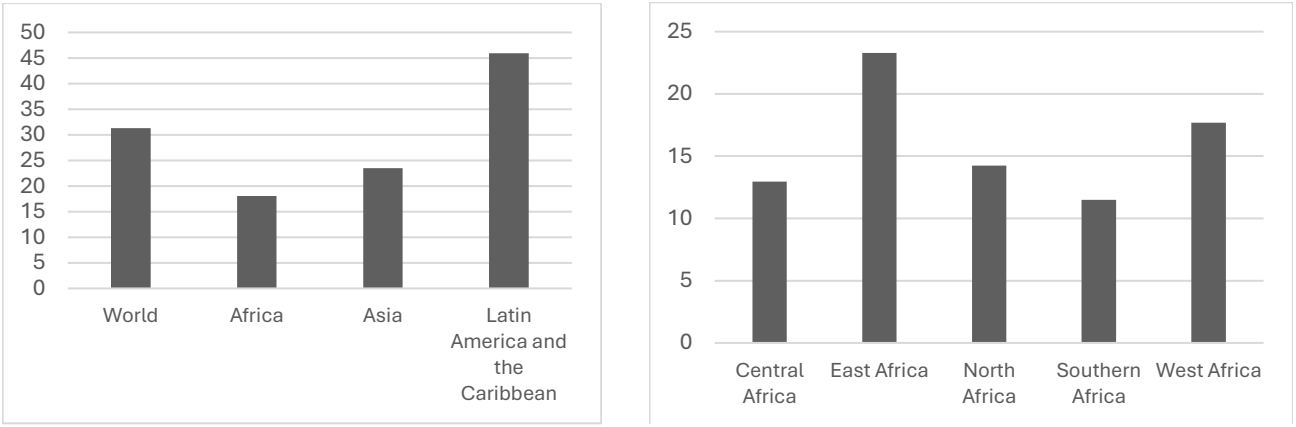
Source: International Labour Organization, "Regional estimates generator", ILOSTAT. Available at https://rshiny.ilo.org/regionalaggregate2/ (accessed on 4 February, 2026).

C. Sustainable Development Goals target 9.3 and indicator 9.3.2

26. In 2025, the proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit was 18.05 per cent, which was well below the global average and the averages for Asia and for Latin America and the Caribbean. Disparities have persisted within Africa, with the greatest access in East Africa and the lowest in Southern Africa, as shown in figure 30.

[4] International Labour Organization, "Regional estimates generator", ILOSTAT. Available at https://rshiny.ilo.org/regionalaggregate2/ (accessed on 4 February 2026).

Figure 30
Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2025
(Percentage)

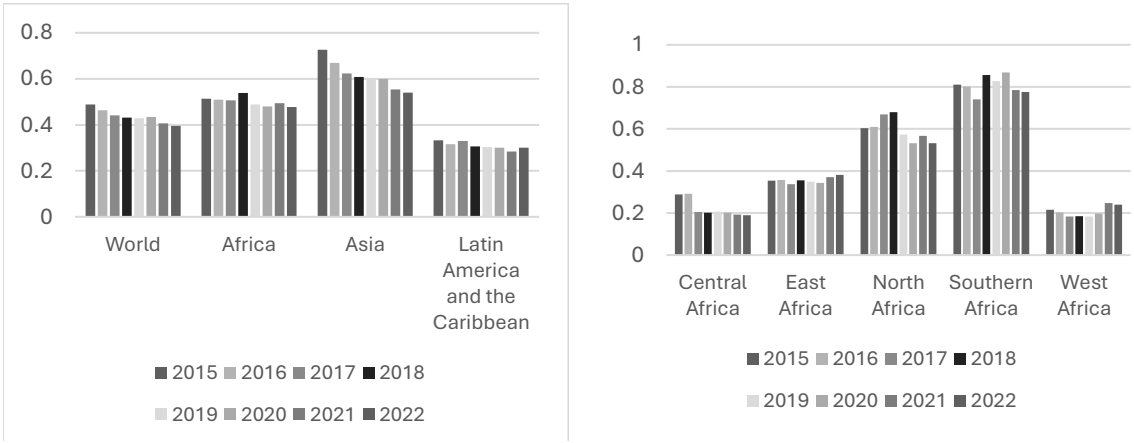


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

D. Sustainable Development Goals target 9.4 and indicator 9.4.1

27. In 2022, African carbon dioxide emissions per unit of industrial value added were $0.48 per kg, which was above the global average and the average for Latin America and the Caribbean but was below the average for Asia, as shown in figure 31. Between 2015 and 2022, Southern Africa followed by North Africa had the highest emission intensity at the subregional level, exceeding continental and global levels, whereas East, Central and West Africa remained below the African average.

Figure 31
Carbon dioxide emissions from manufacturing industries per unit of manufacturing value added, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2015–2022
(Kilograms per constant 2015 United States dollar)

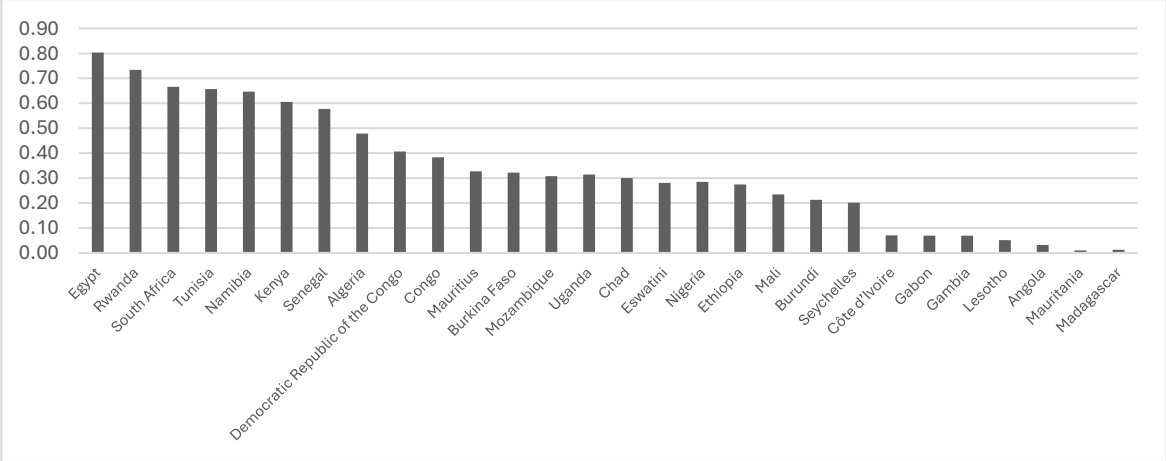


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

E. Sustainable Development Goals target 9.5 and indicators 9.5.1 and 9.5.2

28. Between 2015 and 2023, average research and development expenditure as a share of GDP varied widely among African countries for which data were available. Egypt led the rankings, followed by Rwanda and South Africa. Madagascar recorded the lowest level, as shown in figure 32.

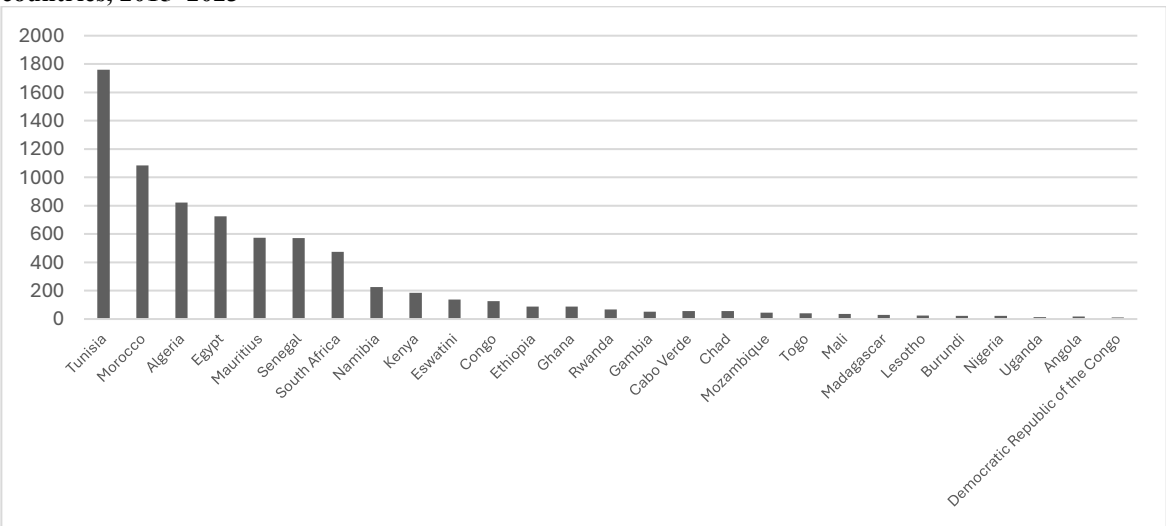
Figure 32
Average research and development expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product, selected African countries, 2015–2023
(Percentage)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

29. Among the African countries with available data, North African countries, such as Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, had the highest average density of full-time equivalent researchers per million inhabitants, reflecting comparatively stronger scientific capacity, as shown in figure 33.

Figure 33
Full-time equivalent researchers per million inhabitants, selected African countries, 2015–2023

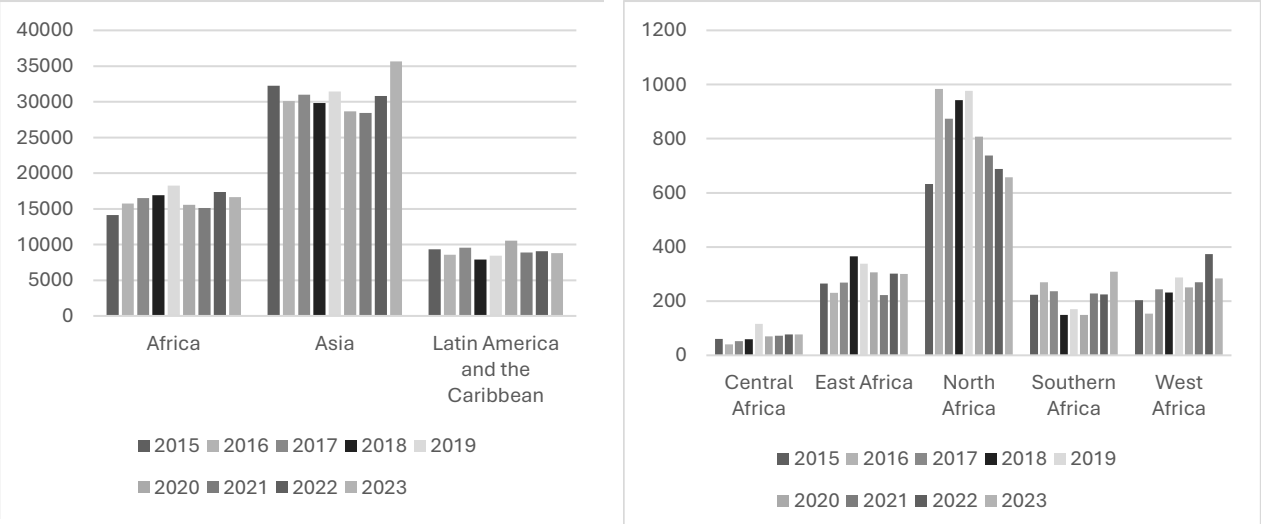


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

F. Sustainable Development Goals targets 9.a, 9.b and 9.c and indicators 9.a.1, 9.b.1 and 9.c.1

30. Total official flows to infrastructure in Africa were higher than those observed in Latin America and the Caribbean, but lower than those in Asia, which remained the largest beneficiary region between 2015 and 2023 (Figure 34a). There were contrasting trends among African subregions, with Central Africa receiving the lowest levels, as shown in figure 34b.

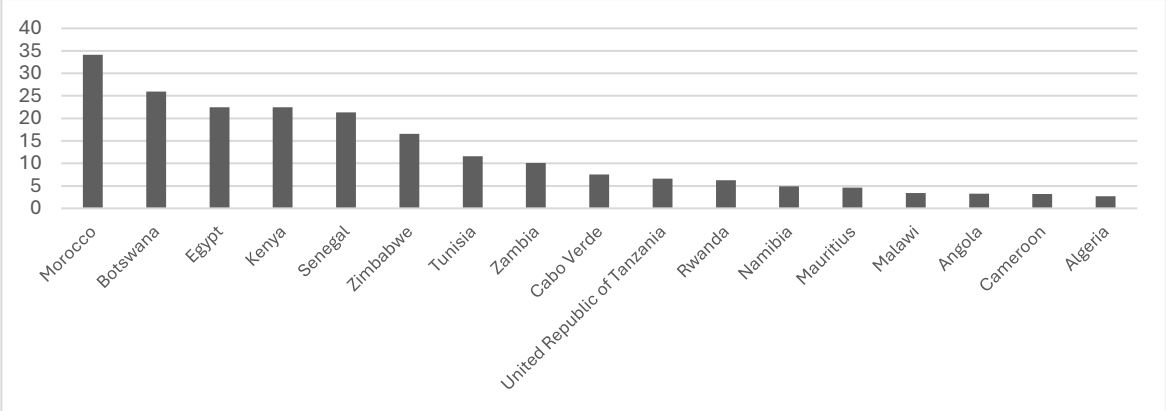
Figure 34
Total official flows for infrastructure, by recipient, in Africa and its subregions and selected regions of the world, 2015–2023
(Millions of constant 2023 United States dollars)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

31. Between 2015 and 2022, among African countries with available data, Morocco was the leader in medium- and high-tech manufacturing, contributing 34.14 per cent of value added, ahead of Botswana, with 25.99 per cent, and Egypt and Kenya, with 22.47 per cent each. Algeria lagged at 2.69 per cent, reflecting continued reliance on low value added manufacturing, as shown in figure 35.

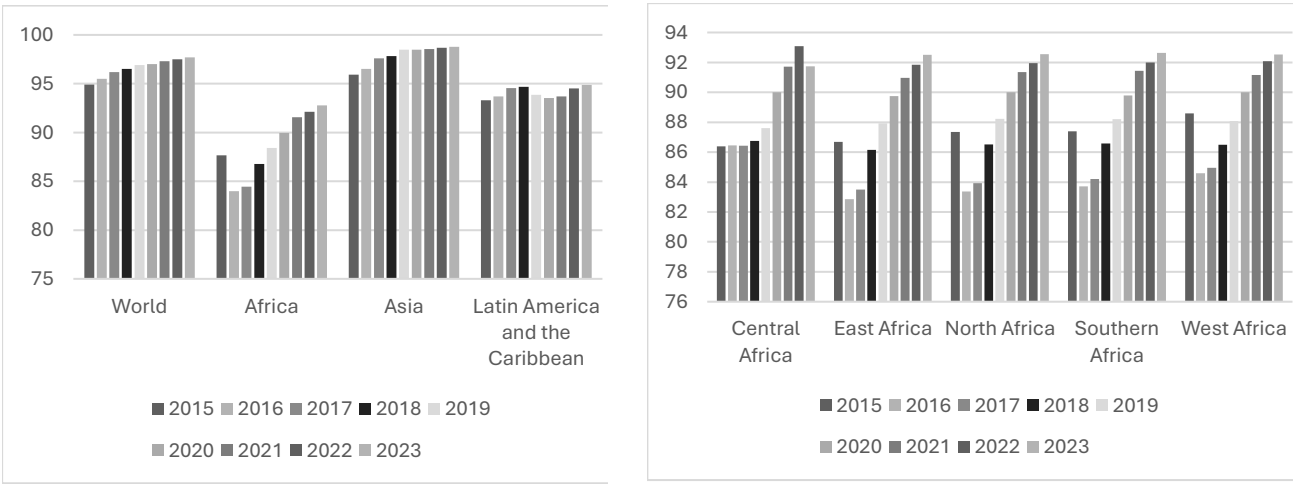
Figure 35
Proportion of medium- and high-tech manufacturing value added in total value added), 2015–2022
(Percentage)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

32. In 2023, 92.8 per cent of the African population was covered by at least a 2G network, which is below the global average of 97.7 per cent, that of Asia of 98.8 per cent and that of Latin America and the Caribbean of 94.9 per cent. The average in most African subregions was about 93 per cent in 2023, as shown in figure 36.

Figure 36
Proportion of the population covered by at least a 2G mobile network, in Africa and its subregions, selected regions of the world and globally, 2015 and 2020–2023
(Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

G. Overall progress

33. Africa has made uneven but notable progress on Goal 9 and the related strategic objectives of Agenda 2063. There are subregional strengths and disparities in road, rail and air transport infrastructure. Manufacturing value added and employment remain below global averages, although Central, North and West Africa have performed relatively well. Small industries thrive in East and West

Africa, but their access to credit is uneven. Data show the need to accelerate investment in research and development across most subregions.

V. Sustainable cities and communities

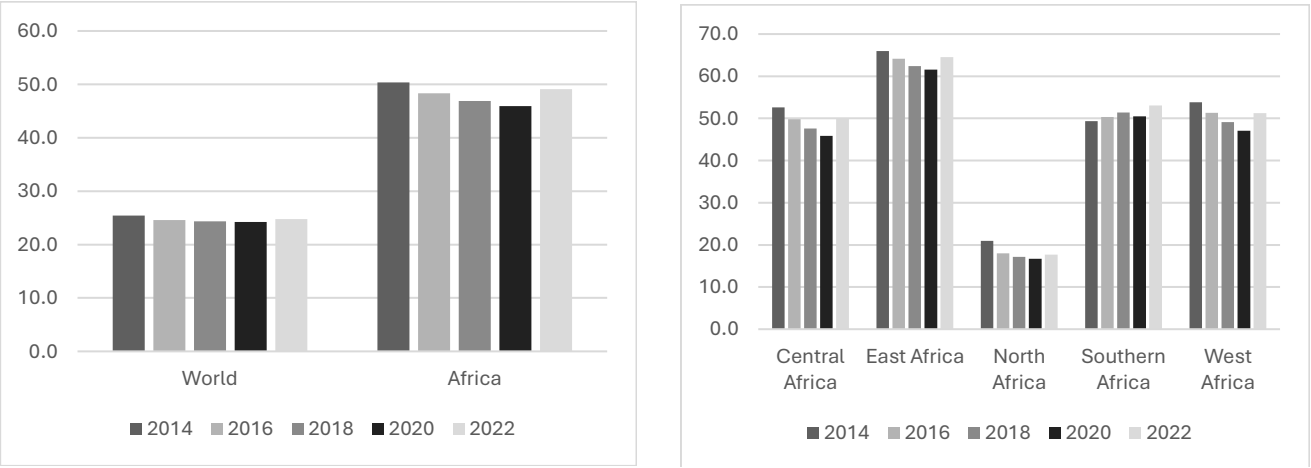
Table 4
Sustainable Development Goal 11 and associated strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	*Agenda 2063*
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	2.3: Build world-class, infrastructure that criss-crosses Africa 1.5: Build the climate resilience of economies and communities 3.1: Promote democratic values, practices, human rights and justice and entrench the rule of law

A. Sustainable Development Goals target 11.1 and indicator 11.1.1

34. In Africa, the proportion of the urban population living in slums has been about twice the global average, but it declined slightly, by 1.3 percentage points, between 2014 and 2022. In 2022, the lowest subregional rate was in North Africa, at 17.7 per cent, whereas the highest, at 64.6 per cent, was in East Africa, as shown in figure 37.

Figure 37
Error! No text of specified style in document.**Proportion of the urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing, in Africa and its subregions and globally, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022**
(Percentage)

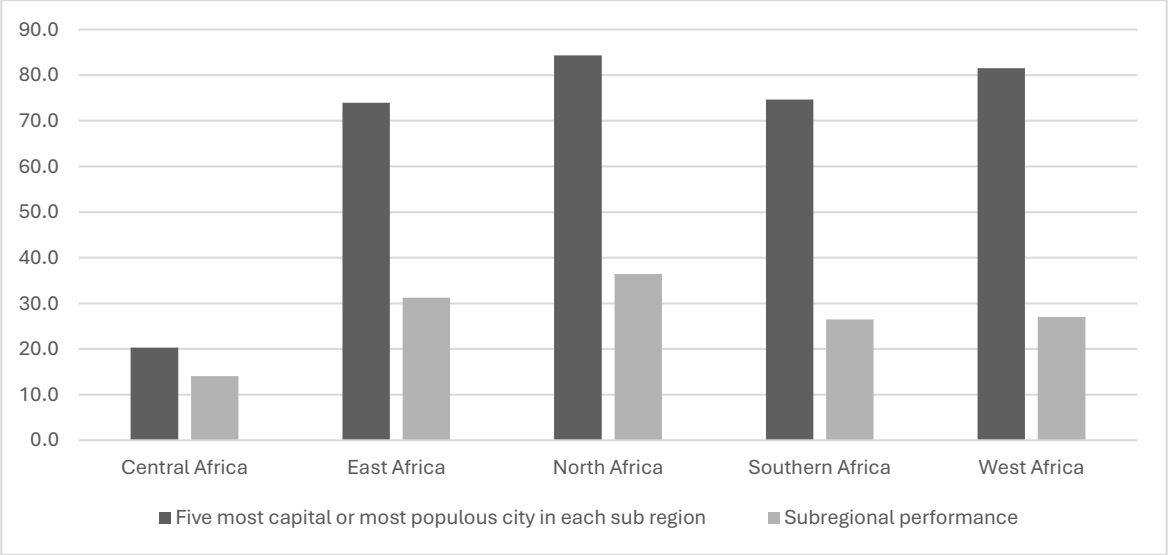


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

B. Sustainable Development Goals target 11.2 and indicator 11.2.1

35. Convenient access to public transport, defined as a stop within 500 metres, has remained low across Africa. Coverage was below 40 per cent in all subregions, as shown in figure 38, which was significantly below the 2022 global average of 51.6 per cent. Access was even lower in cities that are not capitals, owing to limited networks and rapid, often unplanned, urbanization. Indeed, significant disparities persisted within subregions in terms of the average performance of the top five cities in each subregion in respect of convenience of public transport compared with the subregion as a whole.

Figure 38
Proportion of the population that has convenient access to public transport, average of the five best performing cities in each subregion compared with the subregion as a whole , 2020 (Percentage)

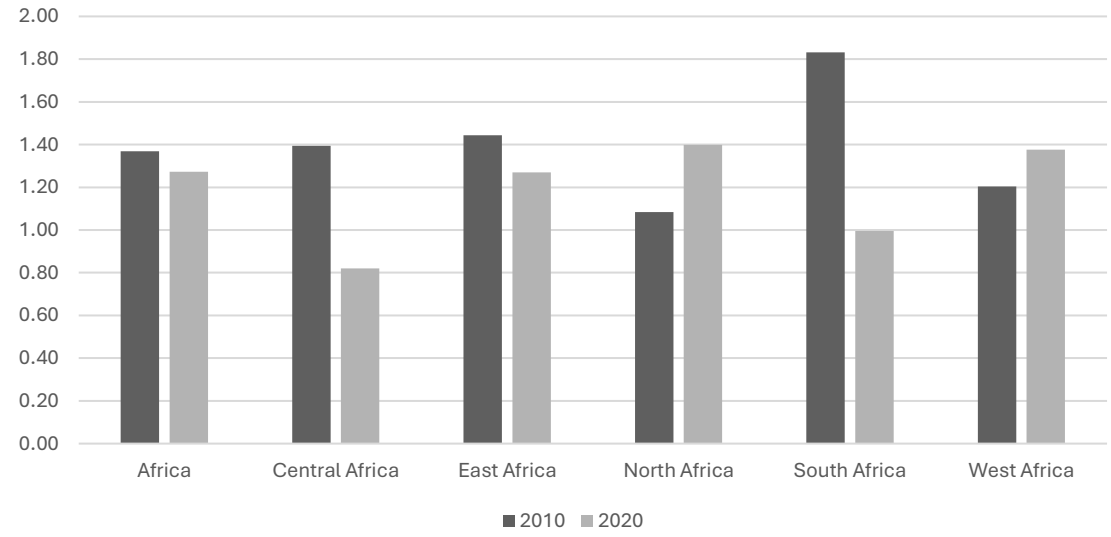


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

C. Sustainable Development Goals target 11.3 and indicators 11.3.1 and 11.3.2

36. The ratio of land consumption to population growth is a measure of urban land-use efficiency, with values less than or equal to one indicating compact growth. There was mixed progress from 2010 to 2020 among over 200 African cities. Generally, Central, East and Southern Africa became more efficient, whereas North and West Africa became slightly less efficient, as shown in figure 39.

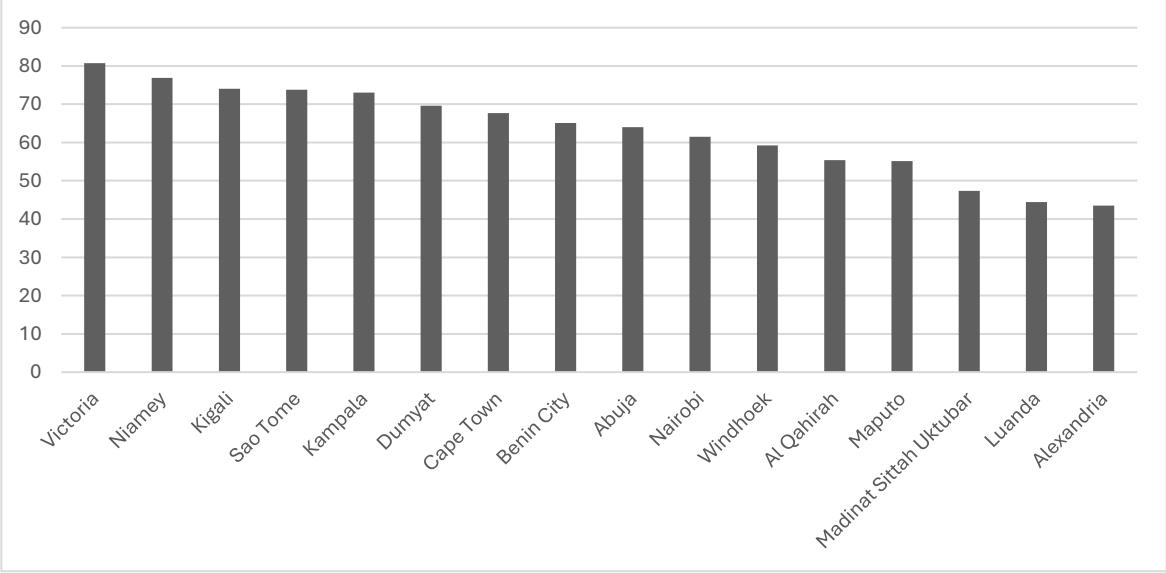
Figure 39
Ratio of land consumption to population growth in Africa, 2010 and 2020



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

37. In respect of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically, Sustainable Development Goal data covered only 12 African countries and 16 African cities as of 2024, which has made subregional aggregation unfeasible. Available data reveal wide disparities in participatory governance. Among the reporting cities, Victoria led, at 80.7 per cent, followed by Niamey, at 76.9 per cent, and Kigali, at 74.1 per cent, whereas Alexandria, in Egypt, had the lowest result, at 43.5 per cent, as shown in figure 40.

Figure 40
Proportions of 16 reporting African cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically, 2024
(Percentage)

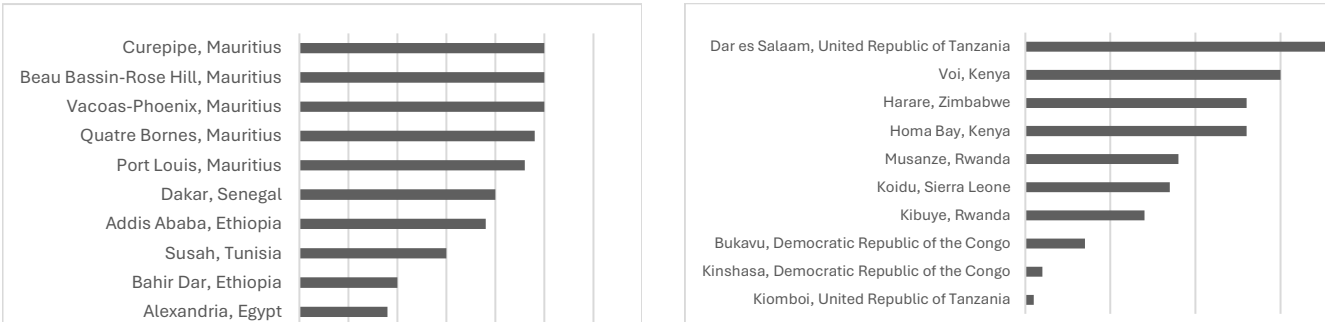


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

D. Sustainable Development Goals target 11.6 and indicators 11.6.1 and 11.6.2

38. Strong municipal solid waste collection coverage can reflect good institutional capacity and sophisticated levels of urban governance and economic development. For the present analysis, data are available for only 30 cities in 17 African countries for the period 2020–2023, which prevents subregional aggregation. In that limited context, Mauritius led, with almost universal coverage in its cities, including Curepipe (99.9 per cent), Vacoas-Phoenix (99.7 per cent) and Port Louis (98.5 per cent). Other high performers were Dakar (95 per cent), Addis Ababa (94 per cent) and Sousse (90 per cent). In contrast, coverage was extremely low in Kiomboi, United Republic of Tanzania (1 per cent), Kinshasa (2 per cent), and Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Conngo (7 per cent), as shown in figure 41.

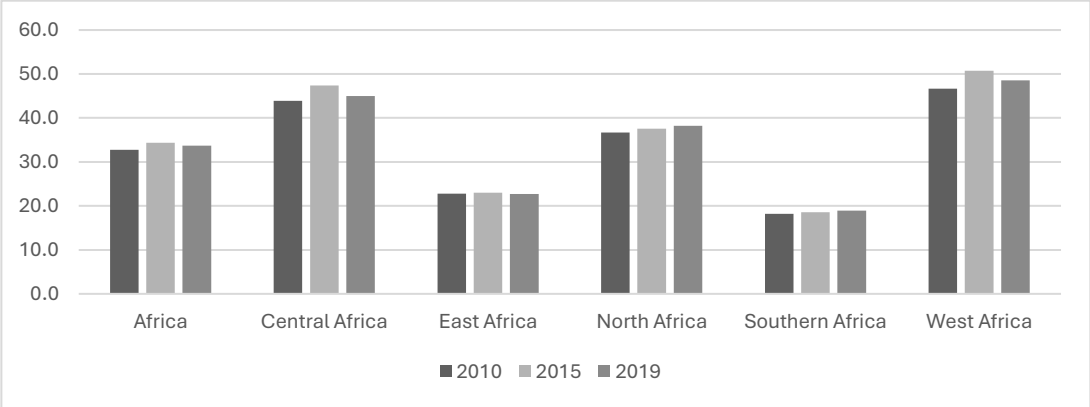
Figure 41
Top (left) and bottom (right) 10 reporting African cities for municipal solid waste collection coverage, 2020–2023
(Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

39. As a measure of air quality and pollution, average annual fine particulate matter rose from 32.8 per cent in 2010 to 33.7 per cent in 2019 in Africa. The highest levels were in Central and West Africa, and the lowest were in East and Southern Africa, as shown in figure 42.

Figure 42
Mean annual levels of fine particulate matter,[a] in Africa and its subregions, 2010, 2015 and 2019



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

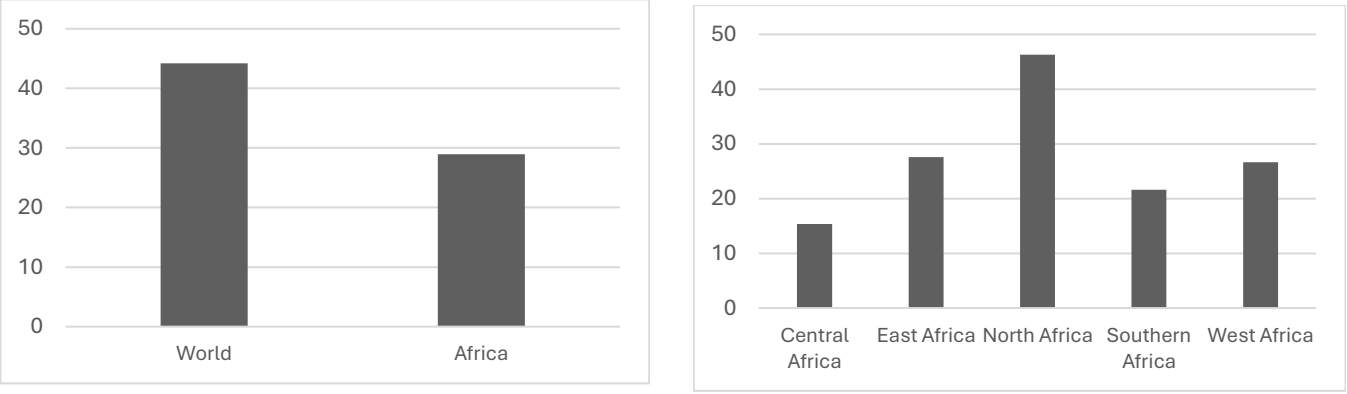
[a] Particulate matter with a diameter of no more than 2.5 micrometres.

E. Sustainable Development Goals targets 11.7 and 11.a and indicators 11.7.1 and 11.a.1

40. Access to public spaces in Africa has been uneven: it is lowest in Central Africa (15.3 per cent) and highest in North Africa (46.3 per cent), but with stark disparities among cities (figure 43).

41. The management of urban growth has improved on the continent, with 49 countries meeting the objectives of indicator 11.a.1 in 2023, up from 46 in 2020.

Figure 43
Average share of the urban population with convenient access to open public spaces, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2020
(Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

F. Overall progress

42. Africa has made limited and uneven progress on Sustainable Development Goal 11, with slight reductions in the proportion of urban populations living in slums, but with persistent gaps in public transport access, land-use efficiency, air quality, waste management and access to public spaces. Although policy readiness has improved, large disparities among subregions and cities remain, underscoring continued challenges in managing rapid urbanization. Data gaps hinder measurement across several indicators.

VI. Partnerships for the Goals

Table 5
Sustainable Development Goal 17 and associated strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063

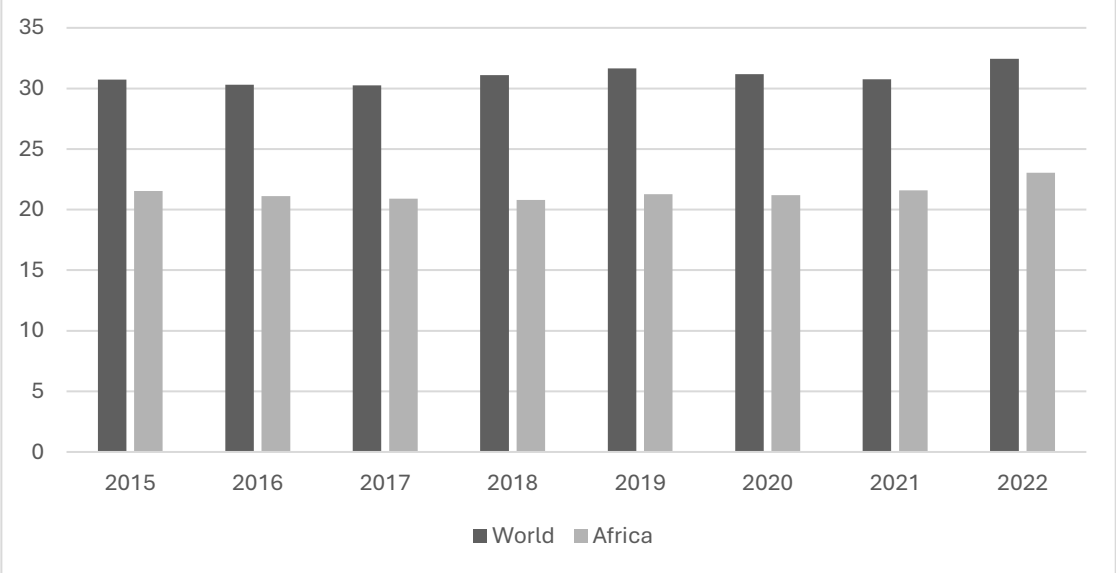
2030 Agenda	*Agenda 2063*
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	2.2: Establish and make functional continental financial and monetary institutions 2.3: Build world-class infrastructure that criss-crosses Africa 7.2: Support Africa in taking full responsibility for financing her development

A. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.1 and indicators 17.1.1 and 17.1.2

43. Goal 17 concerns the essential enablers of sustainable development, with emphasis on global cooperation, development financing, trade, technology and innovation, statistics and capacity-building as powerful drivers for achieving all Sustainable Development Goals. It serves as a cornerstone for fully implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

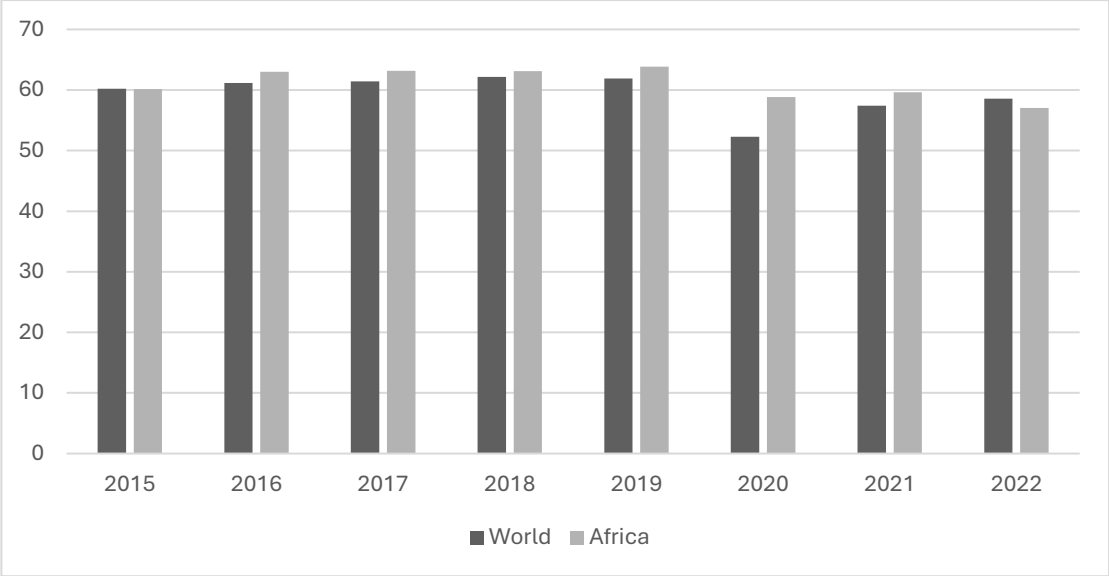
44. Government revenue in Africa represented 23 per cent of GDP on average in 2022, which was significantly lower than the global average of 32 per cent, as shown in figure 44. In 2022, 57 per cent of African domestic budgets were financed by taxes, which was close to the global average of 59 per cent, as shown in figure 45.

Figure 44
Total central government revenue, globally and in Africa, 2015–2022
(Percentage of gross domestic product)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

Figure 45
Average proportion of domestic budgets funded from domestic taxation, globally and in Africa, 2015–2022
(Percentage of domestic taxes)

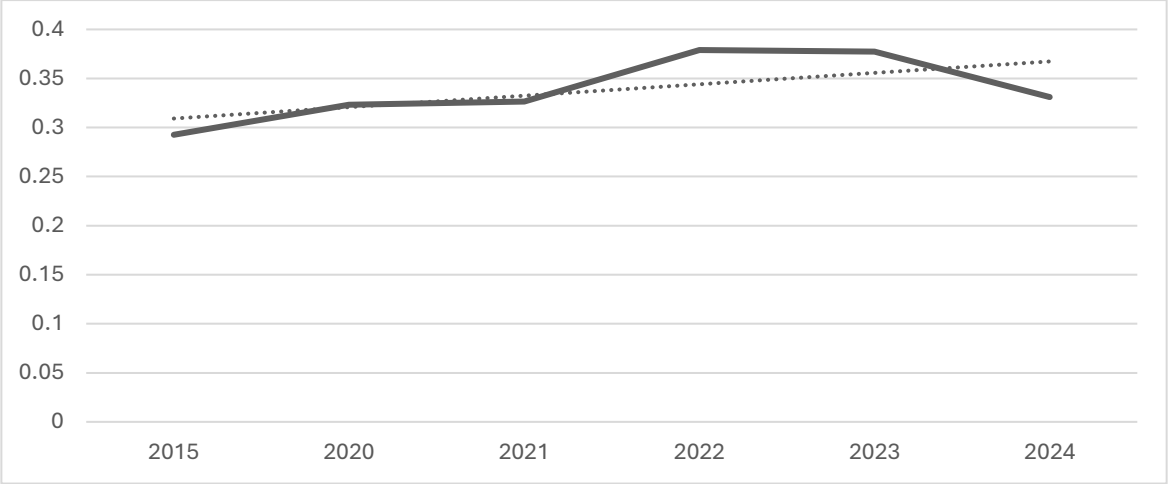


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

B. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.2 and indicator 17.2.1

45. From 2023 to 2024, ODA declined by 0.05 percentage points: in 2024, members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development allocated an average of 0.33 per cent of their gross national income to ODA, compared with 0.38 per cent in 2023, as shown in figure 46, which was significantly below the level of 0.7 per cent included in target 17.2, which only Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden met. Furthermore, ODA to Africa totaled $35.9 billion in 2023, representing a real decrease of 8.8 per cent compared to 2021.

Figure 46
Average allocation to official development assistance by members of the Development Assistance Committee, 2015–2024
(Percentage of gross national income)

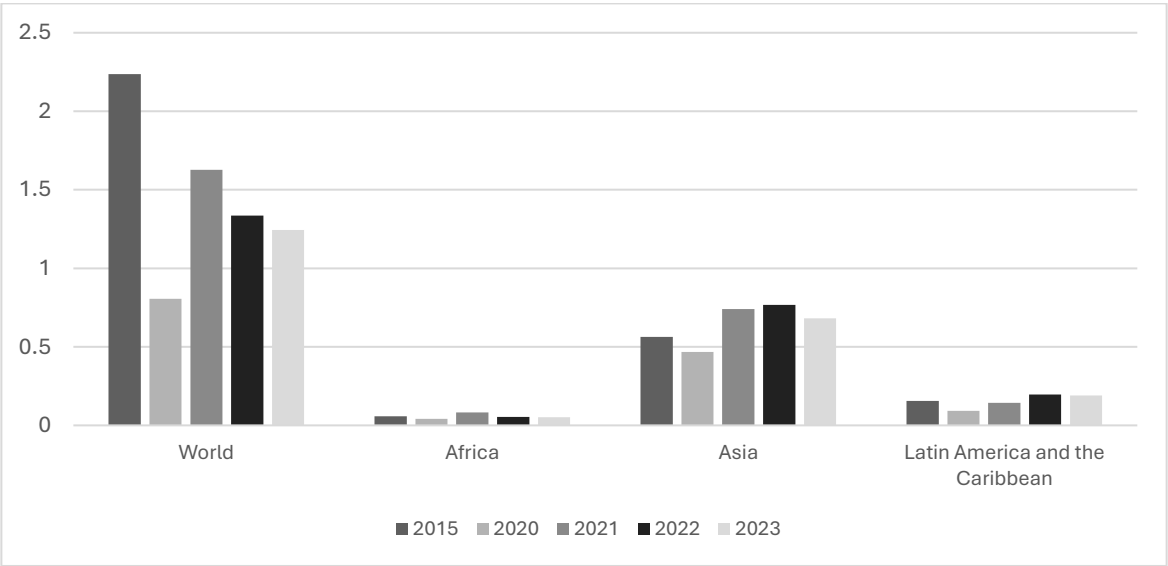


Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, "DAC2A: Aid (ODA) disbursements to countries and regions" OECD Data Explorer (accessed 31 August 2025); Ibid., "DAC5: Aid (ODA) by sector and provider", OECD Data Explorer (accessed 20 February 2026).

C. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.3 and indicators 17.3.1 and 17.3.2

46. Inflows of foreign direct investment to Africa remained insignificant compared to the total flows to Asia and to Latin America and the Caribbean, as shown in figure 47. In contrast, remittances remained a significant source of financing for the continent, as shown in figure 48.

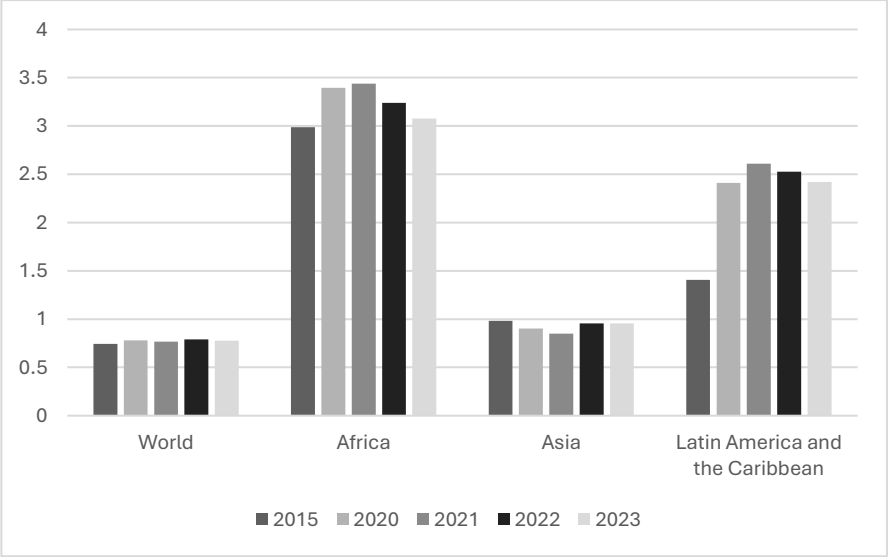
Figure 47
Foreign direct investment, globally and in selected regions, 2015–2023
(Trillions of United States dollars)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

47. Remittances in volume and as share of GDP continue to exhibit positive trends for Africa, exceeding global averages and the averages for Asia and for Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2023, remittances as a proportion of GDP were 3.1 per cent for Africa, compared with 0.8 per cent globally, as shown in figure 48.

Figure 48
Remittances as a proportion of total gross domestic product, globally and in selected regions, 2015–2023
(Percentage)

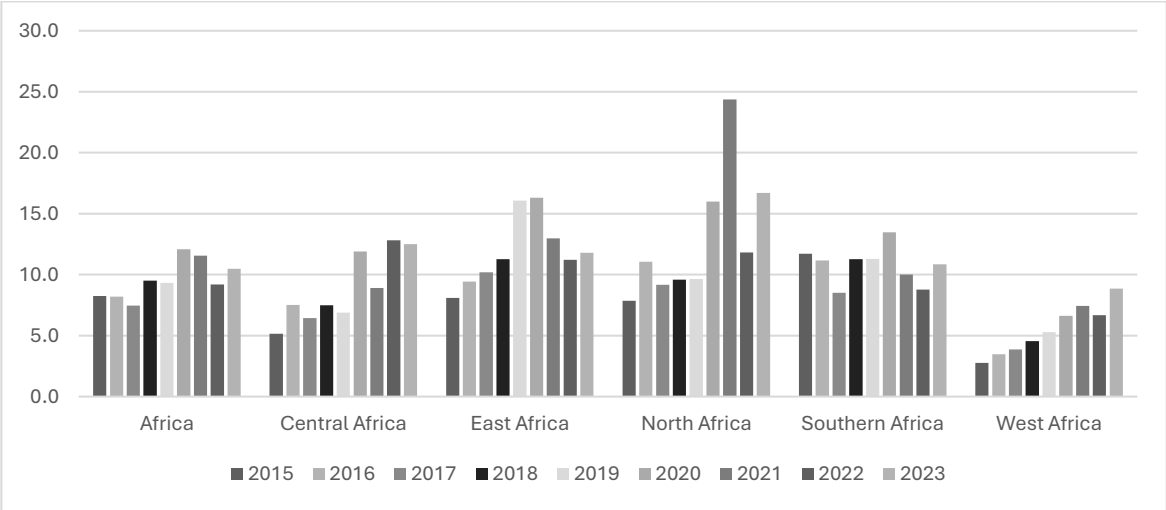


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

D. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.4 and indicator 17.4.1

48. Debt service as a share of exports in Africa was 10.5 per cent in 2023, as shown in figure 49. This reflects a 11 per cent increase between 2015 and 2023. In that period, there were sharp increases of 221.3 per cent and 142.5 per cent in debt service in West and Central Africa, respectively, and the only subregion in which a decline, of 7.4 per cent, was recorded was Southern Africa.

Figure 49
Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services, in Africa and its subregions, 2015 and 2019–2023
(Percentage)

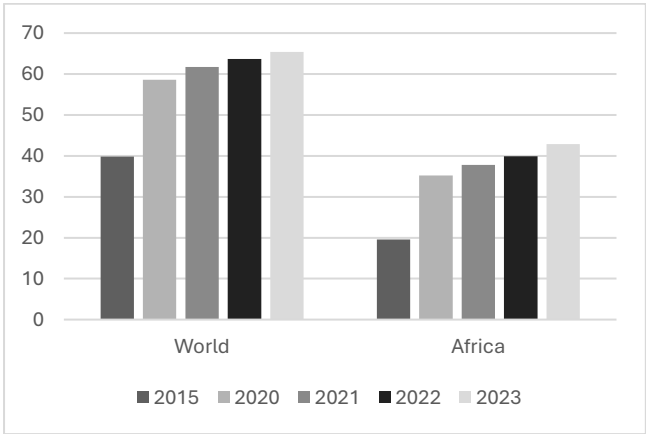


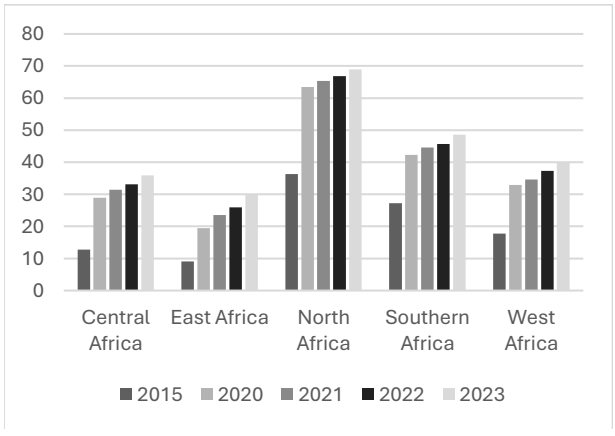
Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

E. Sustainable Development Goals targets 17.6 and 17.8 and indicators 17.6.1 and 17.8.1

49. There has been a significant rise in Internet usage in Africa, rising from 19.6 per cent of the population in 2015 to 42.9 per cent in 2023. North Africa has led the continent, with 68.9 per cent in 2023. Notably, East Africa experienced more than a three-fold increase over the period, albeit from a low base, while Central Africa more than doubled its share, as shown in figure 50.

Figure 50
Proportion of the population using the Internet, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2015 and 2020–2023
(Percentage)



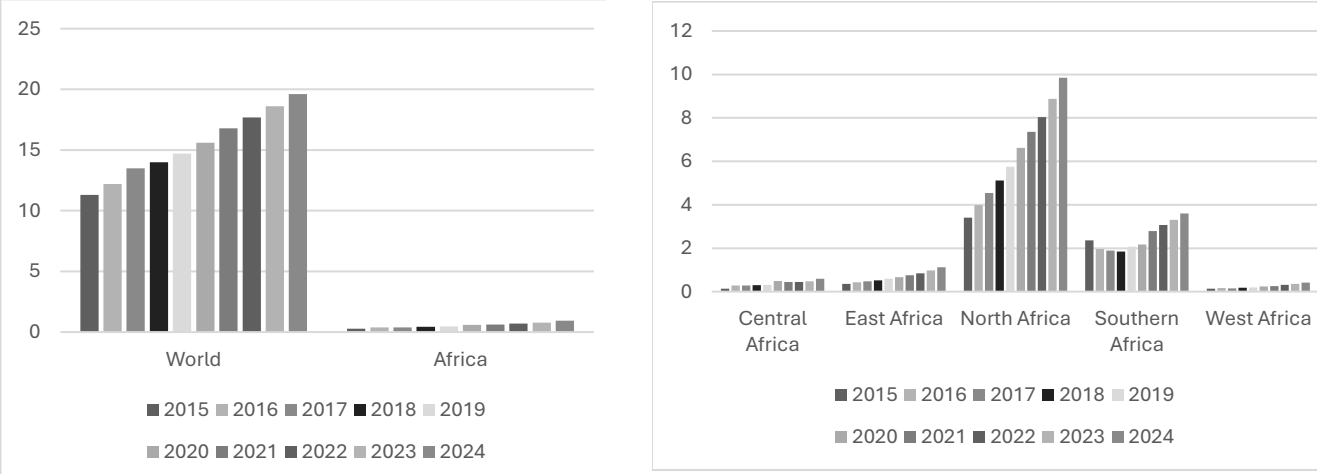


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

50. In 2024, the global average number of fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants was 19.6, compared with a low 0.9 per 100 inhabitants in Africa. North Africa maintained the highest number of subscriptions on the continent, whereas West and Central Africa had the lowest. Between 2015 and 2024, Central

and East Africa saw marked growth, albeit from very low starting points, as shown in figure 51.

Figure 51
Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2015–2024

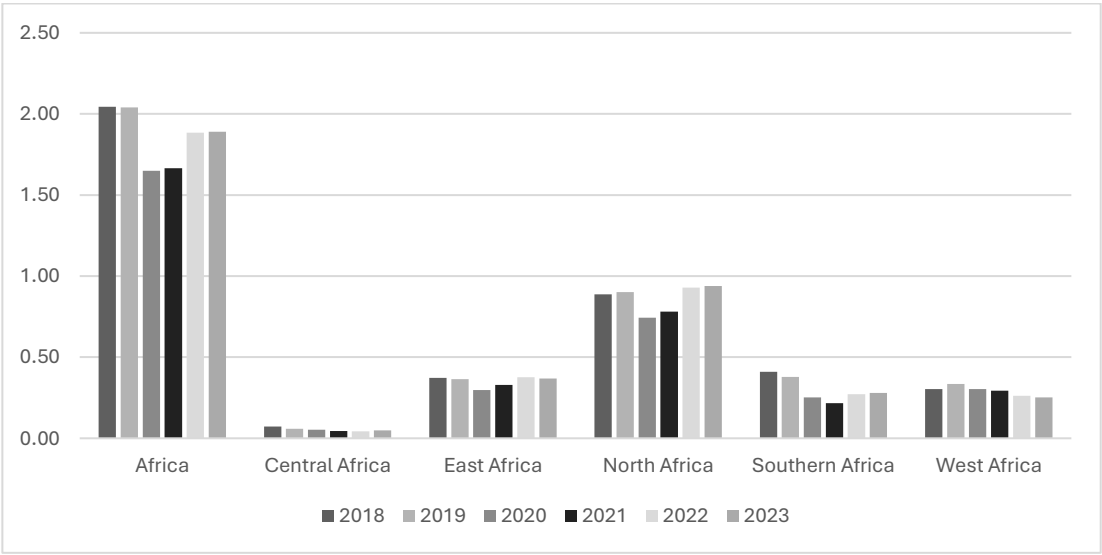


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

F. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.11 and indicator 17.11.1

51. The African share of global merchandise and service exports remained low and largely unchanged, dropping only slightly from 2.0 per cent in 2018 to 1.9 per cent in 2023. At the subregional level, North Africa led, followed by East Africa, whereas Central Africa contributed the least, as shown in figure 52.

Figure 52
Share of global merchandise exports among Africa and its subregions, 2018–2023
(Percentage)

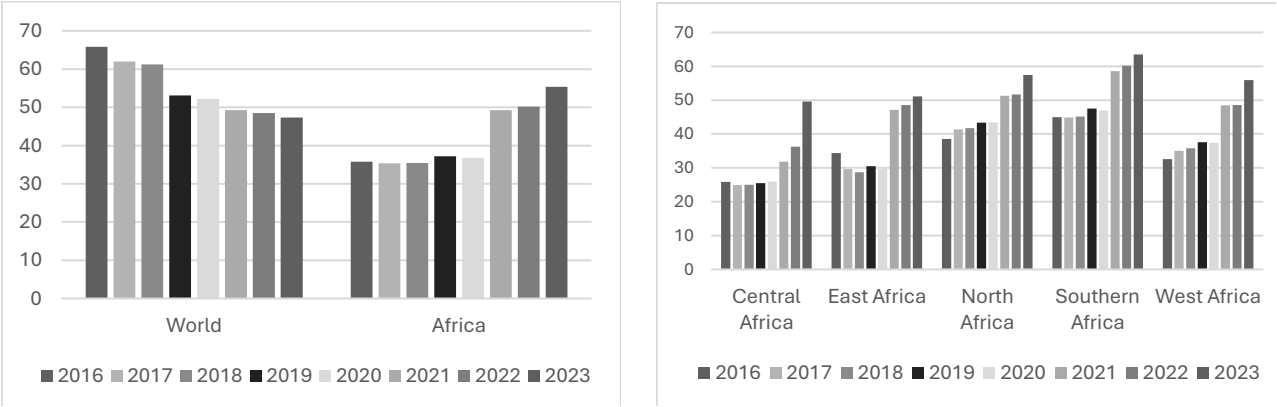


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

G. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.18 and indicator 17.18.1

52. High-quality and timely data are crucial for monitoring progress on the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and national plans. Over the past decade, African data infrastructure has improved, with performance index scores rising across all subregions from 2019 to 2023, at which point North and Southern Africa led, followed closely by West Africa, as shown in figure 53.

Figure 53
Data infrastructure performance index scores, globally and in Africa and its subregions, 2019–2023



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

H. Overall prospects

53. Progress on Goal 17 in Africa has been mixed, with rising debt levels, low domestic resource mobilization and limited aid posing challenges. Accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires innovative financing, greater use of remittances and foreign direct investment, increased concessional funding and stronger South–South cooperation.

VII. Key messages and recommendations

54. Progress towards the achievement of Goal 6 in Africa is uneven and fragile. Although water access has improved, sanitation, water quality and water use efficiency lag, with subregional disparities. Scaling up investment, strengthening integrated water management and improving wastewater treatment should all be prioritized.

55. With regard to the attainment in Africa of Goal 7, the continent is regressing, despite gains in electricity access and the use of renewable energy sources. Closing gaps in rural access, clean cooking and investment requires greater climate finance, cross-border power integration and accelerated deployment of decentralized energy solutions that are led by the private sector.

56. Uneven but promising progress has been made on the continent relating to Goal 9. Strengthening infrastructure integration, expanding industrial finance, accelerating job-rich manufacturing, scaling up access by small and medium-sized enterprises to credit, boosting research and development and leveraging low-carbon advantages are critical for inclusive industrial transformation.

57. Progress towards the achievement of Goal 11 in Africa remains uneven, with slow reduction in slum settlements, lags in transport access and air quality, and persistent planning inefficiencies. Inclusive urban services, sustainable mobility, improved land-use planning, stronger environmental management and expanded city-level data systems should all be prioritized.

58. Financing volatility, weak revenue mobilization and data gaps constrain progress towards the attainment of Goal 17 in Africa. Boosting domestic revenue, leveraging remittances and digital connectivity, promoting sustainable investment and regional integration, strengthening policy coherence and investing in robust statistical systems should all be prioritized.