

Africa started off worse than all the other regions in terms of SDG performance. The latest data on SDGs in Africa is from 2015, making an assessment of the last three years of progress impossible for some indicators.

Where progress was assessed, only three goals (according to selected indicators) are likely to meet the 2030 target. These include: SDG 5 Gender equality, SDG 13 Climate action and SDG 15 Life on land. Progress has been uneven across the regions, but North Africa is the most stable.

Of the 13 goals that have sufficient data (after 2015), it is considered likely that 10 goals will not be achieved by 2030. In relation to these goals (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16), countries are not just underperforming; the reality is that achieving them appears virtually impossible.

## 01

**No Poverty** – Progress over the long term has been made, but only in relative terms. In absolute numbers, poverty has increased. Recent progress cannot be quantified as the latest data is from 2015, indicating that good-quality and timely poverty data remains a challenge. Based on available data, the poverty target for 2030 will not be met by any African region other than North Africa.

## 02

**Zero Hunger** – With the exception of North Africa, food insecurity in Africa persists at a rate of over 25%. Only North Africa is on track to reduce malnutrition rates to less than 7.5% by 2030.

In every other region, malnutrition rates are worsening.

## 03

**Good Health** – Under-five mortality rates are highest in Africa and well above the global average. North Africa has already achieved its target of reducing under-five mortality rates to less than 25 deaths per 1000 births by 2015. West Africa, which has the highest levels, will struggle to meet the 2030 target. With an intensified and accelerated response (optimistic scenario), the other regions could feasibly meet the target.

## 04

**Quality Education** – More than 50% of the countries in Africa have a primary enrolment rate of over 90% and are likely to meet the target of 100% primary enrolment by 2030 if their efforts are sustained. North Africa is poised to meet the 2030 target, and the other Africa regions are also within range.

05

**Gender equality** – Africa leads the world in appointing female legislators; the sub-Saharan average is greater than the global average. However, African women are still more likely than men to be in vulnerable employment, despite the downward trend of people in vulnerable employment generally.

06

**Clean water and sanitation** – In Africa, access to improved drinking water within a 30-minute round trip is below the world average and off-target. Reaching the 2030 target on sanitation will require a significant investment for nearly half of the African countries. Unfortunately, ODA for water and sanitation to African countries had started decreasing in the pre-SDG era.

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**Affordable and clean energy** – Half of the continent has electrification rates of less than 40%. North Africa is on track to achieve 100% electrification by 2030, and East Africa could be on track for universal electrification if investment increases. The other regions are way off-track.

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**Decent work and economic growth** – Unemployment remains high in Africa, reflecting the demographic challenge as well as lack of structural change. Over 40 countries have unemployment rates of over 5%. The real GDP per person employed has also fallen.

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**Industry, innovation and infrastructure** – Internet usage in Africa remains very low when compared with the rest of the world. Nearly half of African countries have internet access rates of less than 20%.

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**Reduce inequality within and among countries** – While no SDG data exists to assess this indicator, growing evidence shows that Africa is one of the most unequal regions in the world. Based on a measure of total resource flows for development, inequality worsened in 25 African countries between 2000 and 2015.

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**Sustainable cities and communities** – Africa is less urbanized than other regions in the world. While indicators and data are lacking, 13 countries have formulated and 21 are in the process of implementing national urban policies .

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**Sustainable consumption and production** – There is no data available on any of the indicators.

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**Climate action** – Africa is the best performing region in the world when it comes to CO2 emissions. Of the world's worst twenty performers, only one is African: South Africa, which produces 467.7 MT per annum. Egypt and Algeria are the next worst offenders.

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**Life below water** – There is no data available to assess the progress. However, most of the countries with maritime borders do not have protected areas for marine life.

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**Life on land** – The continent is performing relatively well with a good amount of protected land dedicated to supporting biodiversity. The only two regions with a greater proportion of protected areas relative to areas of biological significance are

Europe and North America. If the continent implements and enforces concerted and focused policy interventions, it should be on track to meet the 2030 target.

16

**Peace, justice and strong institutions** – The number of deaths caused by conflict or terrorism in Africa is alarming in some countries, particularly Somalia, Libya and Sudan. North Africa has the lowest number of all African regions – but it is still significantly higher than the global average. However, the 2030 target of reducing deaths can feasibly be achieved by a majority. Currently, in 91% of countries there are fewer than 1.9 deaths per 100,000 people caused by conflict or terrorism.

17

**Partnerships for the goals** – Based on the latest data (2015), more than half of African countries have a national statistics plan that is fully funded and being implemented. Significant efforts are required by all regions for the 2030 target to be achieved.