



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

"Accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063"

28 Feb – 2 Mar 2023, Niamey, Niger (hybrid)

Progress, challenges, opportunities and priority actions

- Accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11

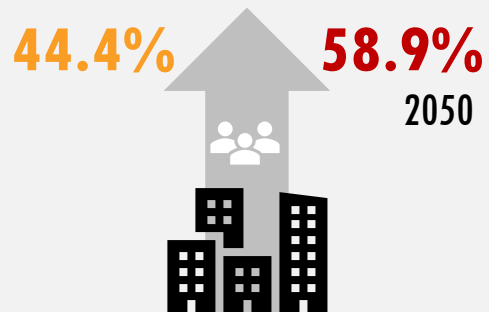
Oumar Sylla

Director, Regional Representation for Africa,
UN-Habitat



Overview

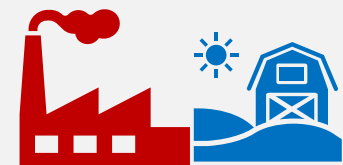
Africa is rapidly urbanizing,
44.4% of population living in urban
areas — share to reach 58.9% by 2050



Unmanaged urbanization will result in
an increased inequalities, inadequate
and overburdened infrastructure and
services, worsening air pollution and
unplanned urban sprawl.



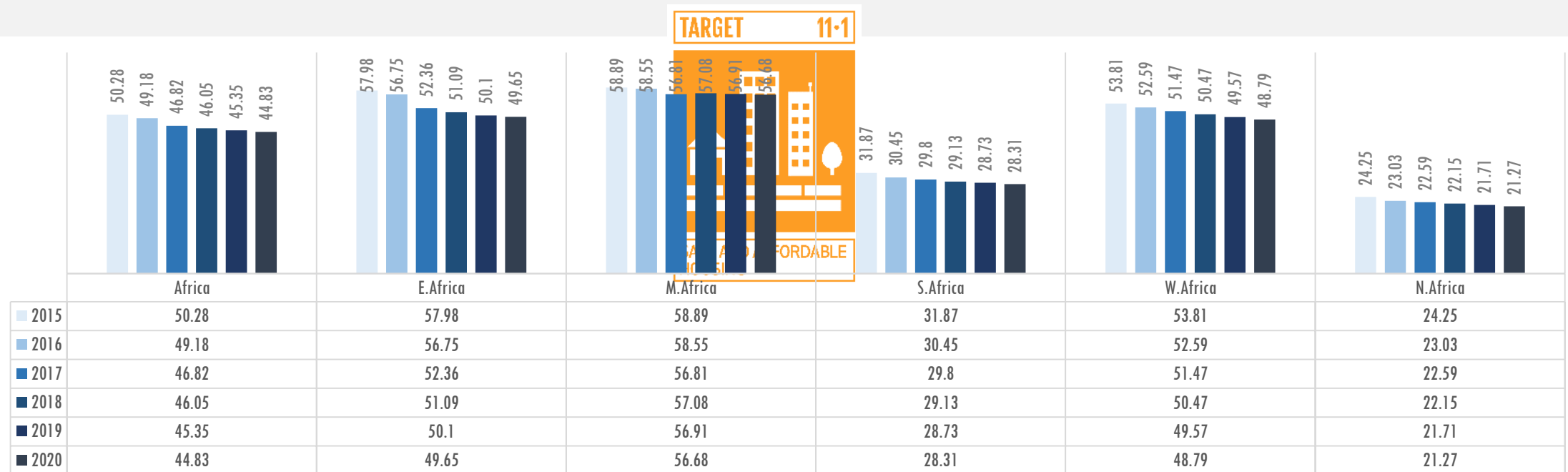
If properly managed, the urbanization
force, combined with structural
transformation across sectors (eg
industry, agriculture and modern
services) can promote inclusive
development and continental prosperity



Highlights on SDG 11 progress and trends in Africa

Target 11.1

- The average proportion of the urban population living in slums showed a steady decrease - from **50.28** per cent in 2015 to **44.83** per cent in 2020
- However, like for the overall global trends, the actual population of slum dwellers in the continent is **249.2 Million** in 2020



Proportion of urban population living in the slums (2015 to 2020)

Highlights on SDG 11 progress and trends in Africa

Target 11.2

TARGET 11-2



AFFORDABLE AND
SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

- **A high proportion of poor people in Africa walk or use non-motorized transport**, especially for journeys less than 5–8 km.
- Public transport in African cities is diverse, ranging from informal paratransit to well-developed metro systems — with a high preference for the former.
- Data from 137 cities from 23 African countries shows that the **share of population with convenient access to public transport averaged only 31.7% vs a global average of 51.6%**, with higher access noted in North African cities
- All African cities have shown a keen interest in investing more in public transport systems — both infrastructural and policy frameworks



Highlights on SDG 11 progress and trends in Africa

Target 11.5



- Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change, with every part of the continent affected by extreme weather events in 2022 (IPCC)
- In 2022, extreme weather events in Africa killed at least **4,000** people and affected a further **19 million**
- The continent's share of the global population affected by disasters rose from **8%** to **29.4%** between 2001 and 2020
- Since 1990, droughts and floods have lowered African countries' GDP by **0.7 per cent** and **0.4 per cent**, respectively.
- Between 1990-2019 Africa was the most impacted continent by disasters: 1,107 floods and droughts recorded, causing 43,625 deaths and at least **\$14 billion** in damages to crops, livestock and property.
- Over the past decade, the total economic losses due to natural disasters in Africa have been estimated at around **\$12 billion** per year over the past decade.*



Highlights on SDG 11 progress and trends in Africa

Target 11.7

TARGET 11.7



PROVIDE ACCESS TO
SAFE AND INCLUSIVE
GREEN AND PUBLIC
SPACES

- Cities that do not provide enough land to streets with adequate walking and cycling spaces and adequate open public spaces are likely to be less prosperous and less people friendly.
- The COVID-19 pandemic re-emphasized the usefulness of open public spaces in enhancing the quality of life during crises.
- Data from 159 cities in 28 African countries show that, on average, cities allocate only **17.4 per cent** of land to streets and open public spaces, which is far below the average of 30–40 per cent recommended by UN-Habitat.
- Given the limited allocation of land to open public spaces, only **37.4%** of the urban population has convenient access to these spaces within 400 metres, against a global average of **45.2%**



Highlights on SDG 11 progress and trends in Africa

Target 11.a & 11.b

TARGET 11.A



STRONG NATIONAL
AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING

TARGET 11.B



IMPLEMENT POLICIES
FOR INCLUSION,
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
AND DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION

- Financing and human resource limitations are the key challenges to attainment of progress towards target 11.a in Africa
- In majority of African countries, priorities for national urban policies include;
 - a coherent vision for national urban development;
 - balanced territorial and urban development; and
 - improved basic urban services and infrastructure.
- Only **39%** of local governments in Africa reported having local disaster-risk-reduction strategies in 2019, compared with **29%** 2015.
- more actions are needed to accelerate the adoption and implementation of the strategies set out in targets 11.a and 11.b across the continent



Transformative actions and partnerships needed for accelerated progress

- Invest in data systems across the continent
- Leverage urbanization to create jobs and diversify economies: optimize African cities' productivity and revenue-generation potential.
- Put housing at the centre of national and local agendas.
- Strengthen the capacity of local governments to play a critical role in economic planning and development at large.
- Invest in resilient infrastructure at multiple levels - including transboundary crises prevention, response and resilience.
- Make urban governance architecture inclusive
- Enhance multisectoral and inter-institutional coordination from the city to the continental level





THANK YOU!

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Ideas
to
Action

