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

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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 (e.g. 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 \textbf{50.28} per cent in 2015 to \textbf{44.83} per cent in 2020
- However, like for the overall global trends, the actual population of slum dwellers in the continent is \textbf{249.2 Million} in 2020

![Table showing proportions of urban population living in slums from 2015 to 2020 for different regions of Africa]
Highlights on SDG 11 progress and trends in Africa

Target 11.2

- 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

- 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

• 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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