



ARFSD-12 Side Event

Launch of the Africa's Children Statistical Compendium 2026

Strengthening child-focused WASH data for accountability, policy action and SDG 6 monitoring in Africa

Monday, 27 April at 13:00 EAT

Register for the event with the attached link



The State of African Children 2026

The Future of Childhood in a Changing World

Statistical Compendium

African Overview

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Children
stability,

<https://data.unicef.org/>



TABLE 1. DEMOGRAPHICS

Countries and areas	Population (thousands) 2024			Annual population growth rate (%)		Annual number of births (thousands) 2024	Total fertility (live births per woman) 2024	Life expectancy at birth (years)			Dependency ratio (%) 2024			Share of urban population (%) 2024	Annual growth rate of urban population (%)		Net migration rate (per 1,000 population) 2024
	Total	Under 18	Under 5	2000	2024			1970	2000	2024	Total dependency ratio	Child dependency ratio	Old age dependency ratio		2000	2024	
African Union	1,513,931	690,881	213,997	2.5	2.3	46,598	4.0	45	54	64	75	68	6	46	3.6	3.2	-0.4
Central Africa	189,078	97,447	32,617	3.1	3.1	7,355	5.5	44	51	62	91	86	6	45	4.3	3.9	0.6
Eastern Africa	441,664	207,416	65,588	2.9	2.4	14,182	4.0	46	53	66	76	71	5	31	4.6	4.0	-1.5
Northern Africa	226,852	80,792	21,918	1.8	1.4	4,415	2.7	48	68	74	57	47	10	56	2.2	1.8	0.2
Southern Africa	205,261	89,297	27,815	1.7	2.2	5,967	3.6	49	51	65	70	63	7	51	2.9	3.0	0.3
Western Africa	451,077	215,929	66,058	2.8	2.2	14,679	4.3	40	50	58	79	73	5	53	4.4	3.4	-0.4
Regional Economic Communities																	
Arab Maghreb Union	109,723	36,726	10,091	1.4	1.2	1,968	2.5	48	69	75	55	44	11	71	2.2	1.8	-0.8
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	681,528	311,842	97,091	2.6	2.3	21,003	4.0	47	55	66	75	68	6	36	3.4	3.3	-1.0
Community of Sahel-Saharan States	710,290	320,241	96,774	2.5	2.1	21,278	4.0	44	55	62	73	67	7	51	3.5	3.0	-0.6
East African Community	324,532	160,481	51,615	3.0	2.7	11,314	4.6	45	52	64	84	78	5	36	5.3	4.2	-0.7
Economic Community of Central African States	241,220	123,047	40,861	3.0	3.1	9,163	5.3	44	50	63	90	84	6	48	4.6	4.0	0.4
Economic Community of West African States	376,017	176,874	53,666	2.8	2.2	11,854	4.3	40	50	58	79	73	5	59	4.3	3.3	-0.4
Intergovernmental Authority on Development	324,614	152,098	47,834	3.0	2.4	10,345	4.0	45	53	66	75	70	5	30	4.7	3.8	-1.9
Southern African Development Community	417,331	195,749	63,468	2.3	2.6	13,872	4.3	47	52	65	79	72	6	45	3.5	3.6	-0.0
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	1,513,340	690,719	213,951	2.5	2.3	46,589	4.0	45	54	64	75	68	6	46	3.6	3.2	-0.4
Central Africa	65,754	32,727	10,638	3.1	3.1	2,420	4.9	46	51	61	84	79	5	48	3.7	3.5	2.7
Eastern Africa	513,267	248,141	79,868	3.0	2.7	17,440	4.4	45	52	65	80	75	5	34	5.0	4.2	-0.3
North Africa	276,710	104,387	29,512	1.9	1.4	6,070	2.9	49	66	72	61	52	9	52	2.3	1.9	-1.9
Southern Africa	206,532	89,534	27,875	1.7	2.2	5,979	3.6	49	51	65	70	63	7	51	2.8	3.0	0.3
West Africa	451,077	215,929	66,058	2.8	2.2	14,679	4.3	40	50	58	79	73	5	53	4.4	3.4	-0.4
World	8,161,973	2,412,922	647,340	1.4	0.9	132,406	2.2	56	66	73	54	38	16	58	2.5	1.3	0.0

For a complete list of countries and areas in the regions, subregions and country categories, see page on Regional Classifications or visit <<https://data.unicef.org/regionalclassifications>>. For accurate and comparable data across different years, please refer to the UNICEF Data Warehouse <https://data.unicef.org/dv_index/> where latest vintage of standardized datasets and regional classifications are available for download.

Sex disaggregated data available at United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2024). World Population Prospects 2024.

Children
Accountability,

State of African Children: focus on WASH

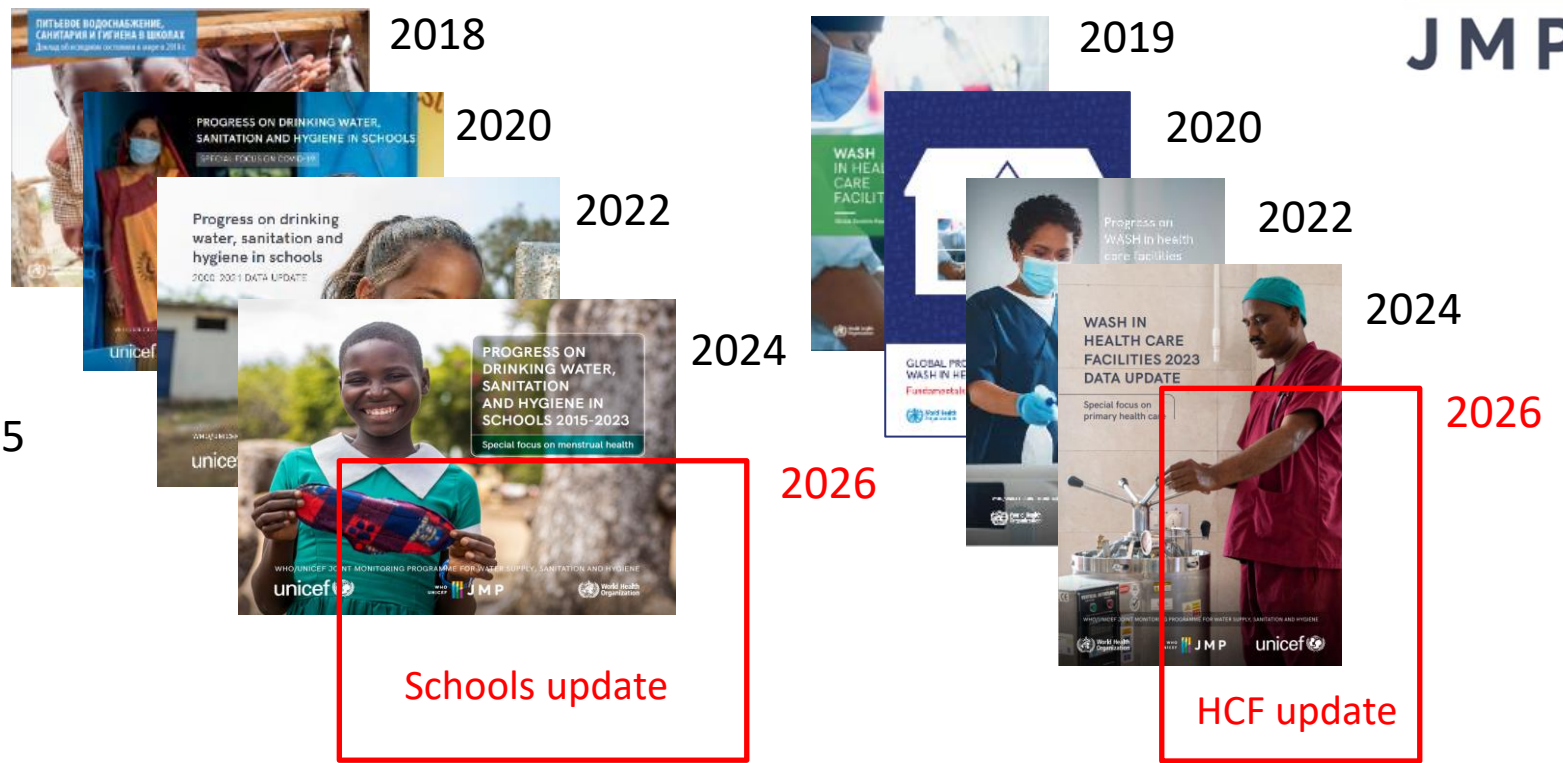
- The State of African Children 2026 focuses on *water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)*.
- African Union's 2026 Theme of the Year on “**Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063**” which is adopted during the African Union’s 39th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa on 14 February 2026.
- This theme places water and sanitation at the center of the continental agenda, recognizing their role as “*catalysts for economic transformation, climate resilience, public health, food security, and regional stability*”.

WHO/UNICEF JMP global monitoring of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)



WASH in households

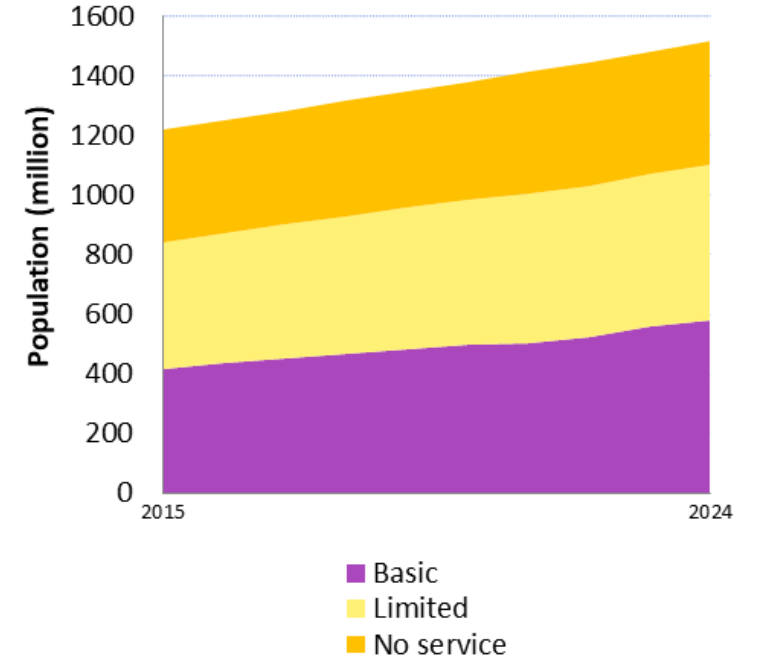
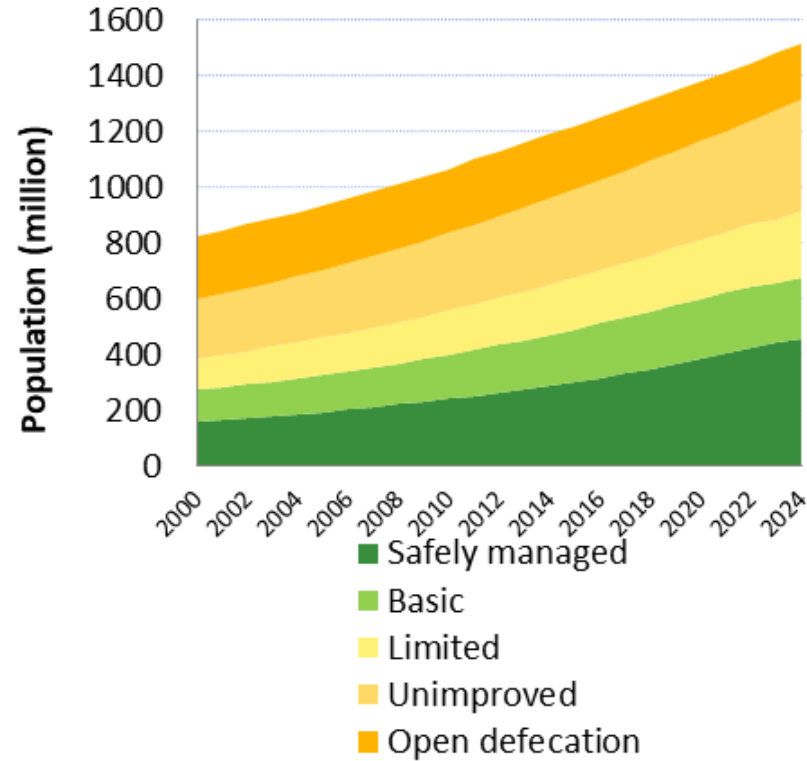
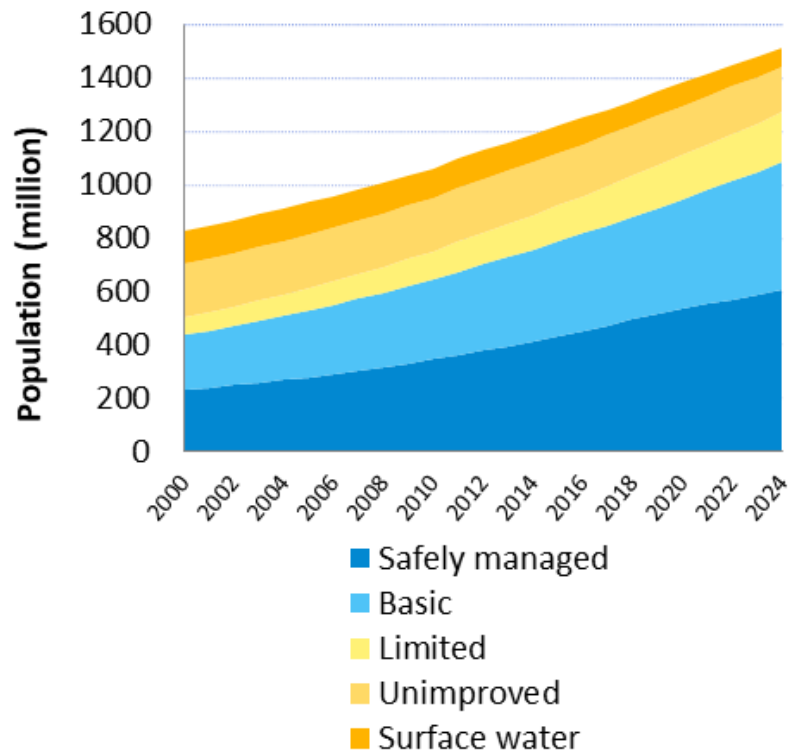
WASH in schools and health care facilities



washdata.org

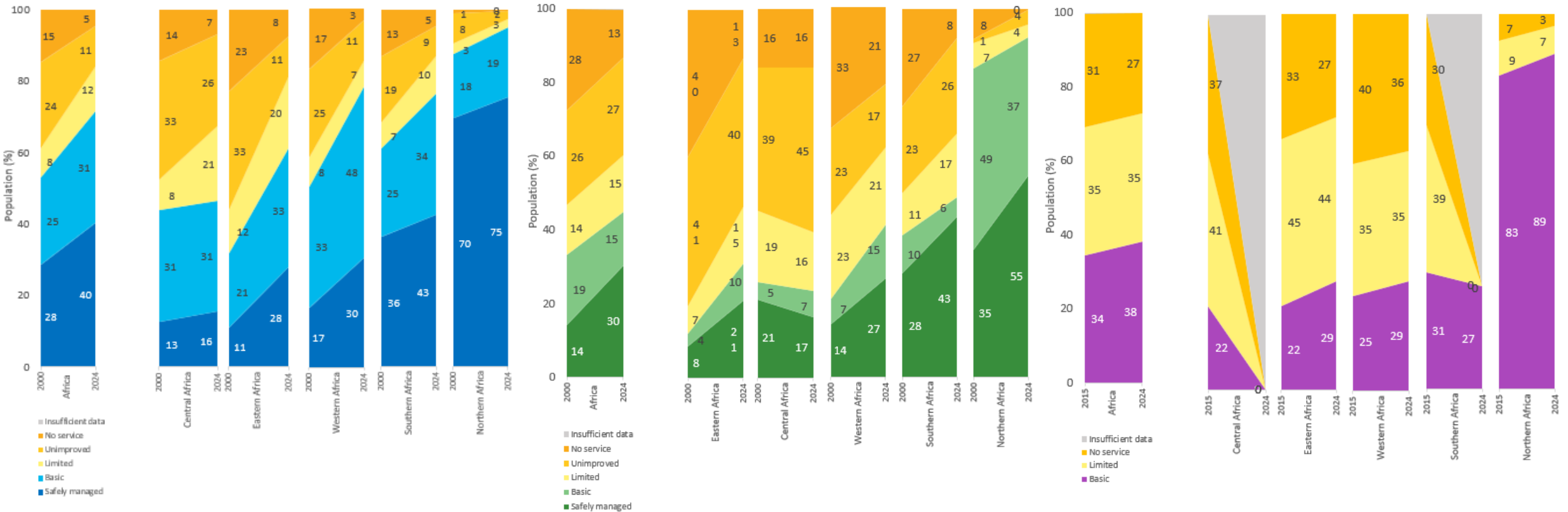
<https://data.unicef.org/>

Since 2000, millions of people have gained access to WASH services in Africa



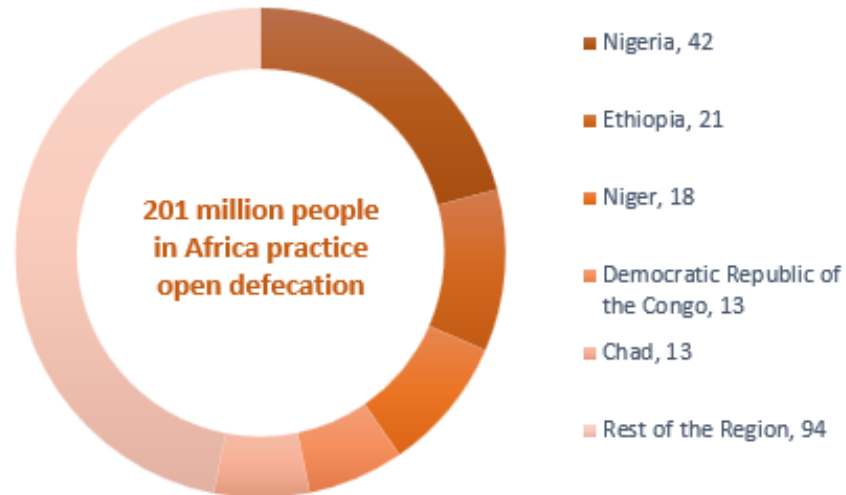
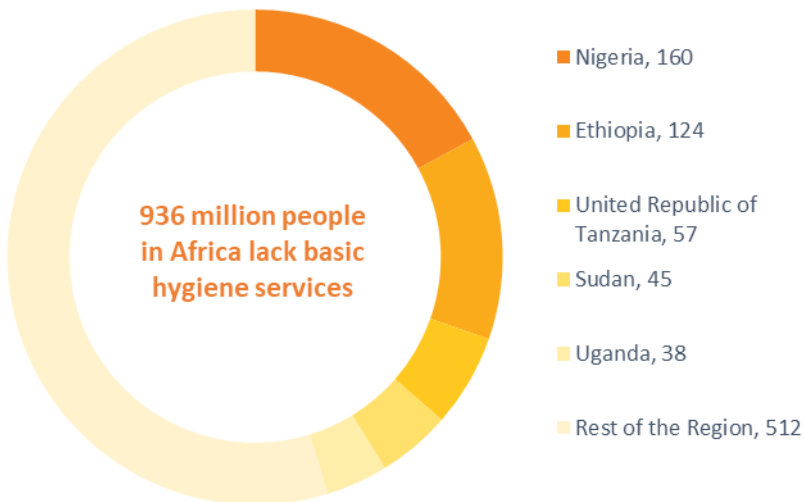
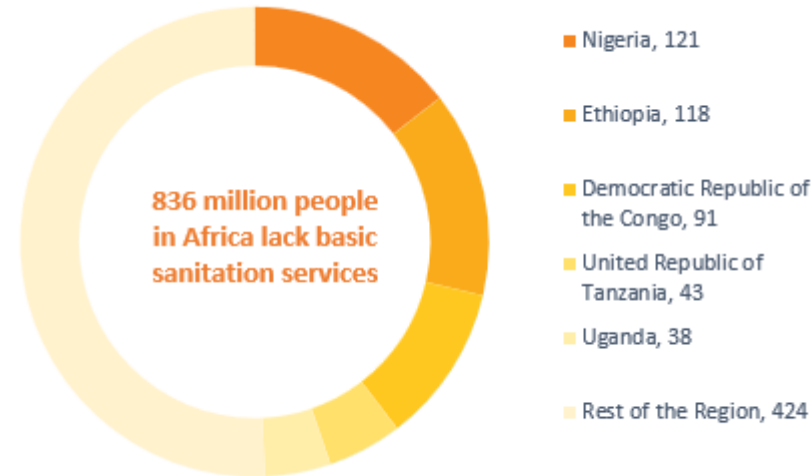
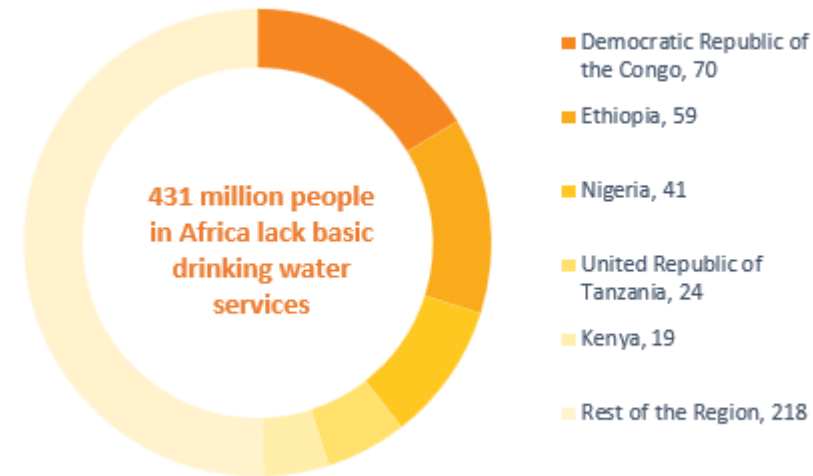
- Since 2000, 375m have gained access to safely managed drinking water (SDG 6.1.1)
- Since 2000, 299m have gained safely managed sanitation (SDG 6.2.1a)
- Since 2015, 160m have gained basic hygiene services (SDG 6.2.1b)

But WASH service levels vary widely between regions



- Coverage of safely managed drinking water increased from 28% to 40%, and safely managed sanitation increased from 14% to 30% but coverage of basic hygiene has remained largely unchanged.
- Large differences in service coverage between regions of Africa; Central, Eastern and Western Africa still had less than 30% coverage of safely managed water, safely managed sanitation and basic hygiene in 2024.

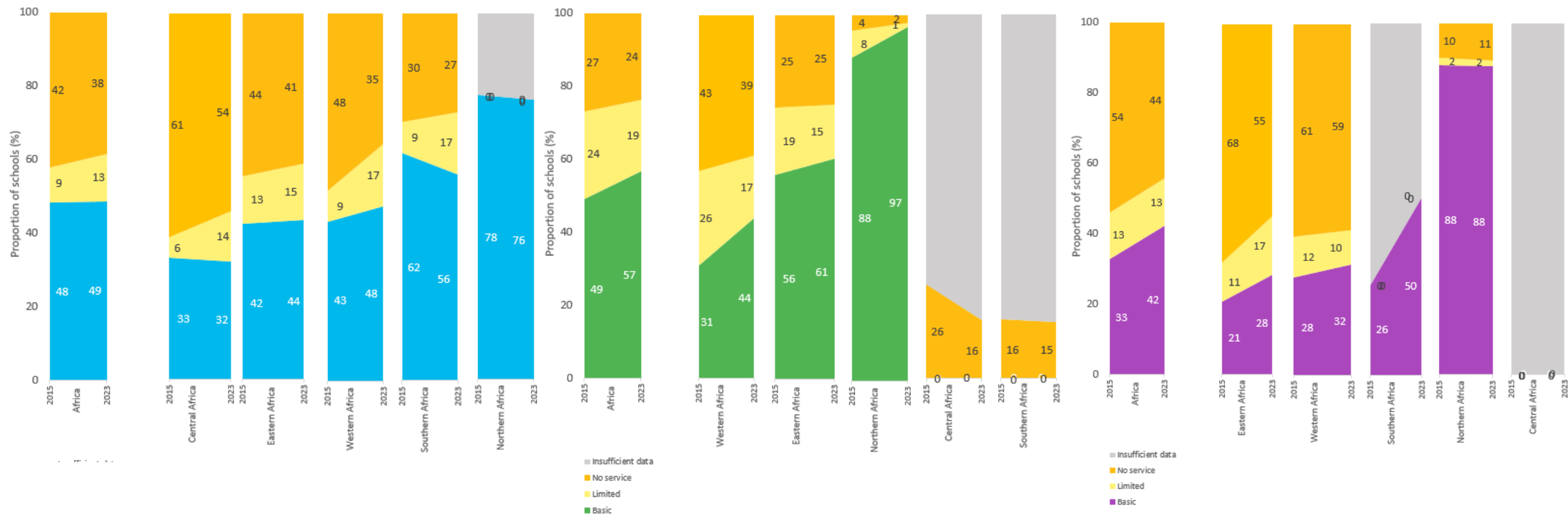
And millions of Africans still lack basic WASH services



In 2024

- 201 million people in Africa still practiced open defecation.
- 431 million people in Africa lacked basic drinking water services
- 836 million lacked basic sanitation services
- 936 million lacked basic hygiene services.

Despite progress many African schools still lack basic WASH services



- Since 2015, basic drinking water coverage has remained largely unchanged but basic sanitation has increased from 49% to 57% and basic hygiene has increased from 33% to 42%
- Large differences in service coverage between regions and data gaps remain, particularly in Central, Southern and Northern Africa

Many countries in Africa lack data on WASH in Health Care Facilities



In 2023

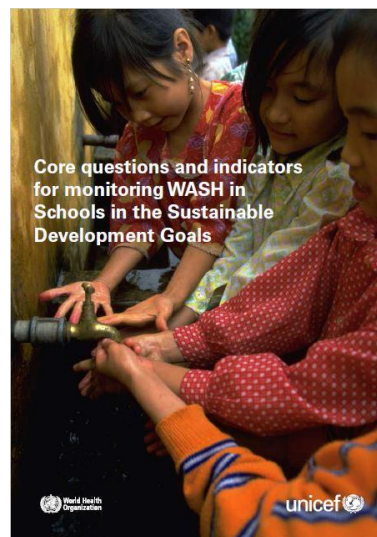
- Only 21 countries had estimates for basic water, 16 for basic sanitation, 13 for basic hygiene, 10 for environmental cleaning, and 26 for healthcare waste management

Core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in households, schools and health care facilities



JMP 2018 Core Questions for Household Surveys

- English 1.73 MB
- Français 2.23 MB
- Español 1.36 MB
- Русский 1.84 MB
- العربية 1.09 MB



Core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in Schools in the Sustainable Development Goals

- English 1,000.42 KB
- Français 2.56 MB
- Español 1.47 MB
- Русский 1.92 MB
- العربية 751.66 KB

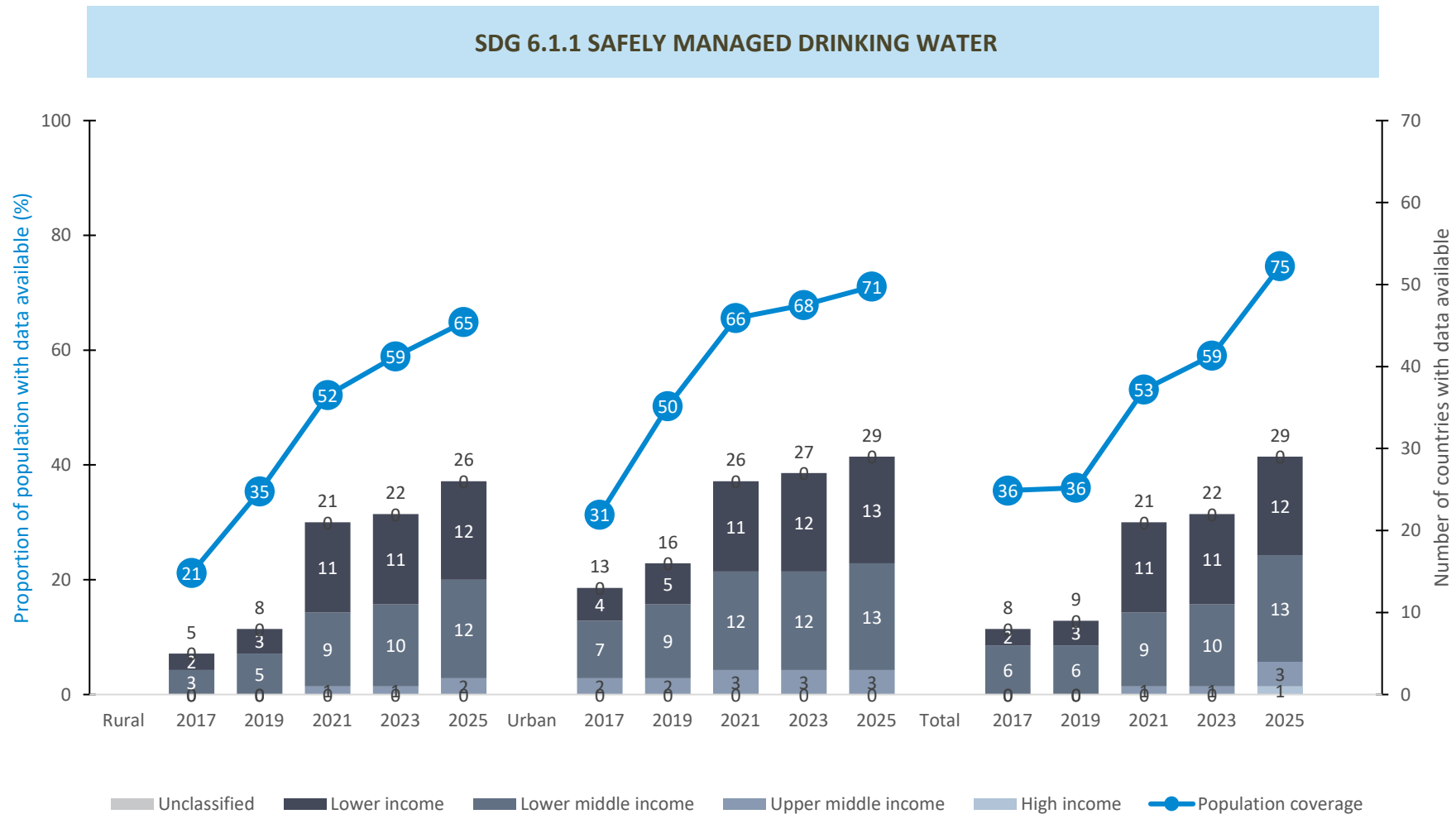


Core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in Health Care Facilities in the Sustainable Development Goals

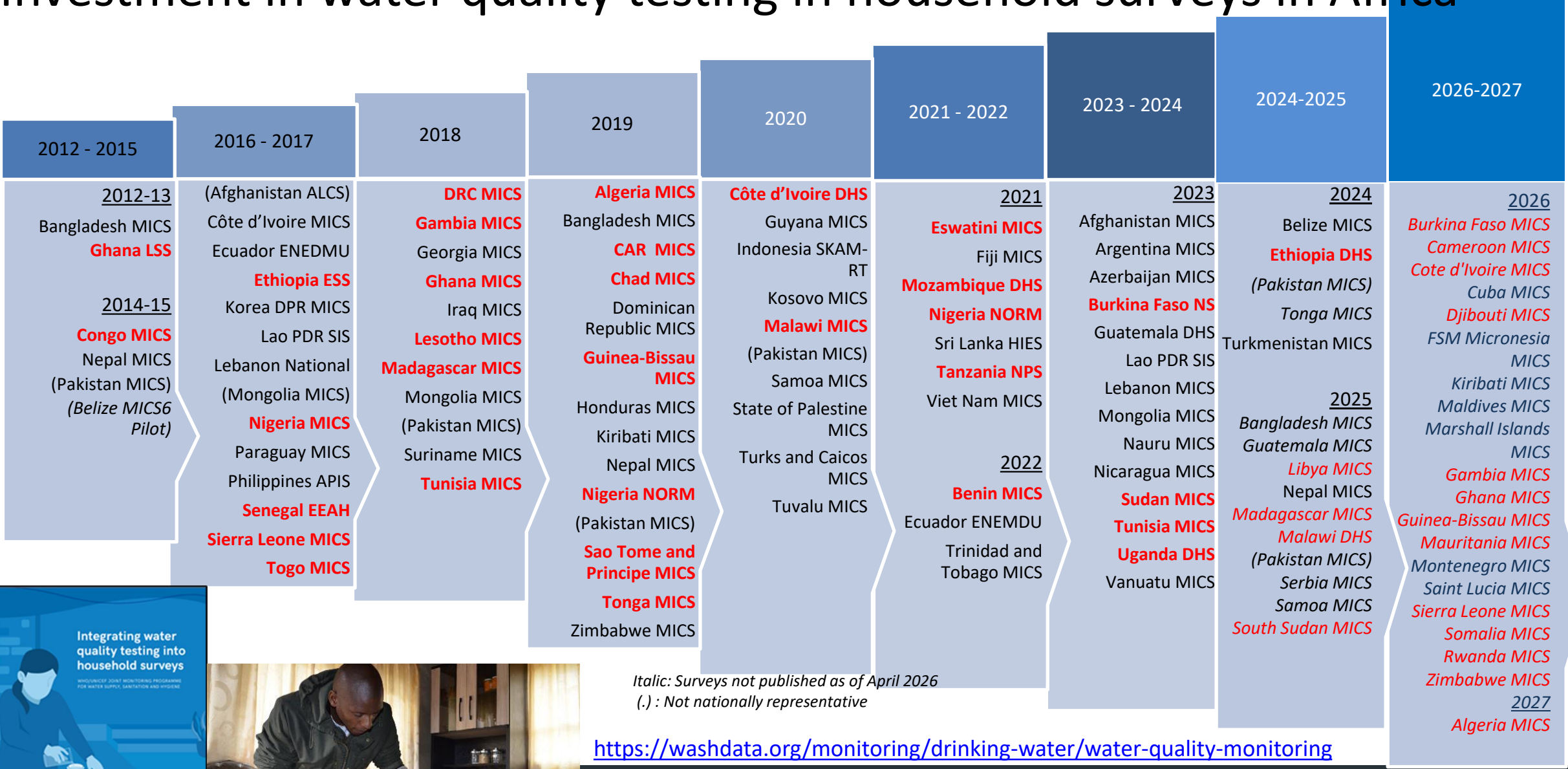
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- Español 8.62 MB
- Русский 780.36 KB
- العربية 918.57 KB

<https://washtdata.org/reports>

Dramatic improvement in data availability for SDG 6.1.1 in Africa



Investment in water quality testing in household surveys in Africa



*Italic: Surveys not published as of April 2026
(.) : Not nationally representative*

<https://washdata.org/monitoring/drinking-water/water-quality-monitoring>



WHO/UNICEF JMP Statistical Snapshots for Africa

SDG Regions

- Northern Africa and Western Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa

Other Regional Groupings

- African Union
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
 - ECA Central Africa
 - ECA East Africa
 - ECA North Africa
 - ECA Southern Africa
 - ECA Western Africa

M49 Regions

- Northern Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa

M49 Sub Regions

- Eastern Africa
- Middle Africa
- Southern Africa
- Western Africa

UNICEF Regions

WHO Regions

World Bank Income regions



<https://washdata.org/how-we-work/country-and-regional-engagement>

<https://washdata.org/reports?text=africa>

Thank you!
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