

Tenth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
*“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 and
eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient
and innovative solutions”*

23–25 APRIL 2024

Addis Ababa, (hybrid)

In-depth review of progress made, peer learning and acceleration actions on

No poverty (SDG 1)

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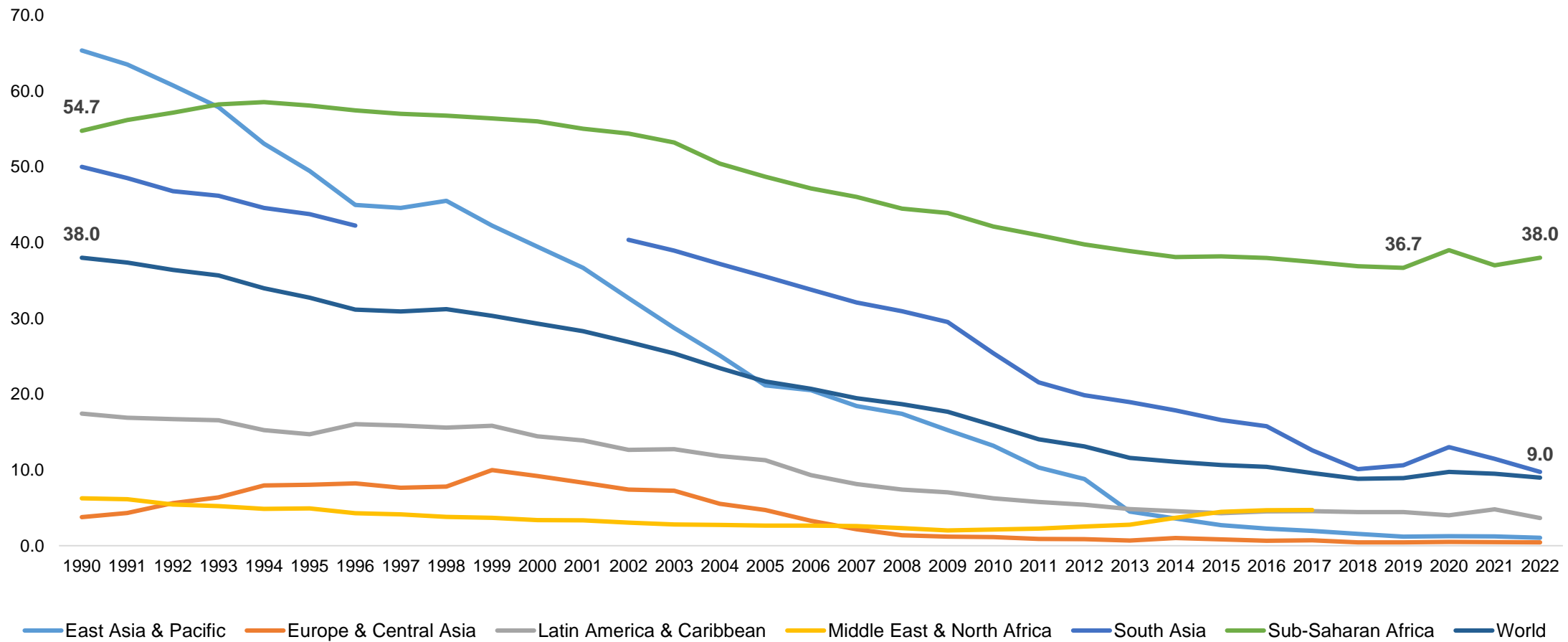
24 April 2024



Poverty has declined very slowly in Africa since 1990



- ❑ Overall slow pace of poverty reduction has been exacerbated in recent years by COVID-19 and the Ukraine crisis
- ❑ Currently, 32.6 per cent (or, 476 million) of African population is below the international poverty line



The COVID-19 pandemic reversed a decade of effort to end poverty in Africa

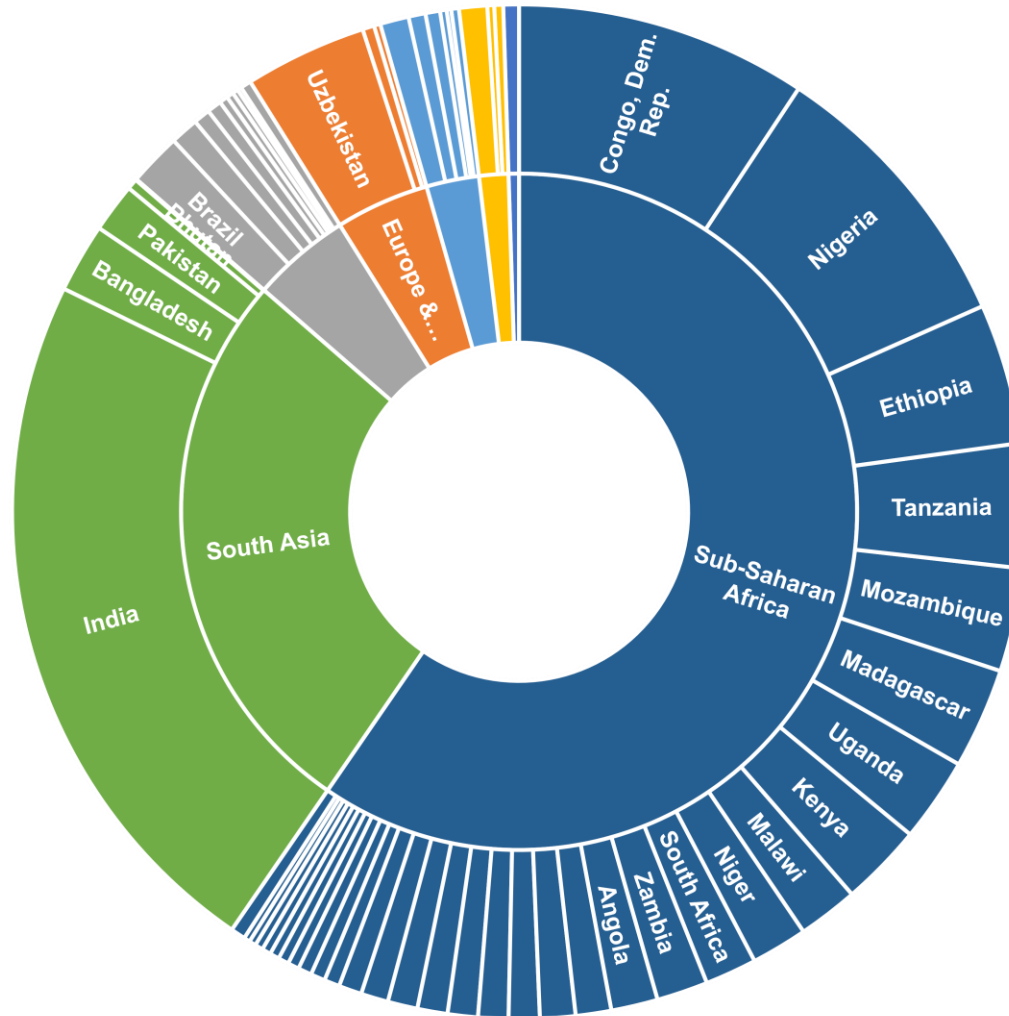


- ❑ There was a significant deterioration among those living in poverty in all 10 types of deprivations considered in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- ❑ Nearly 300 million students were forced to miss classes in the early stages of the pandemic, because nearly all African schools were closed, many of them for more than a year.
- ❑ Only Algeria, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tunisia are fully on track to achieve target 1.1 of the eradication of extreme poverty.
- ❑ Benin and Côte d'Ivoire are on track but face challenges because of instability in the sub-region, rising inflation and debt.
- ❑ Malawi and Mozambique face a high risk of poverty because of various crises that have lowered agricultural productivity and displaced populations, pushing many more people into poverty in less than a year.

Global poverty is now African poverty



- East Asia & Pacific
- Europe & Central Asia
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Middle East & North Africa
- Rest of the world
- South Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa



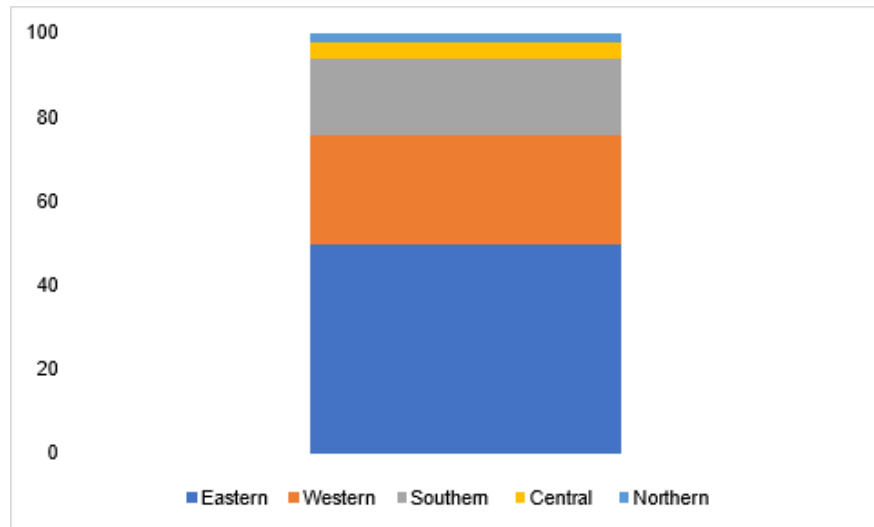
- Approximately 55 percent of people globally who live below the poverty line of \$2.15 are in Africa.
- Of the 28 countries worldwide where the rates of extreme poverty are above 30 per cent, 23 are in Africa.

Poverty in Africa is both uneven and disproportionate to the population across subregions



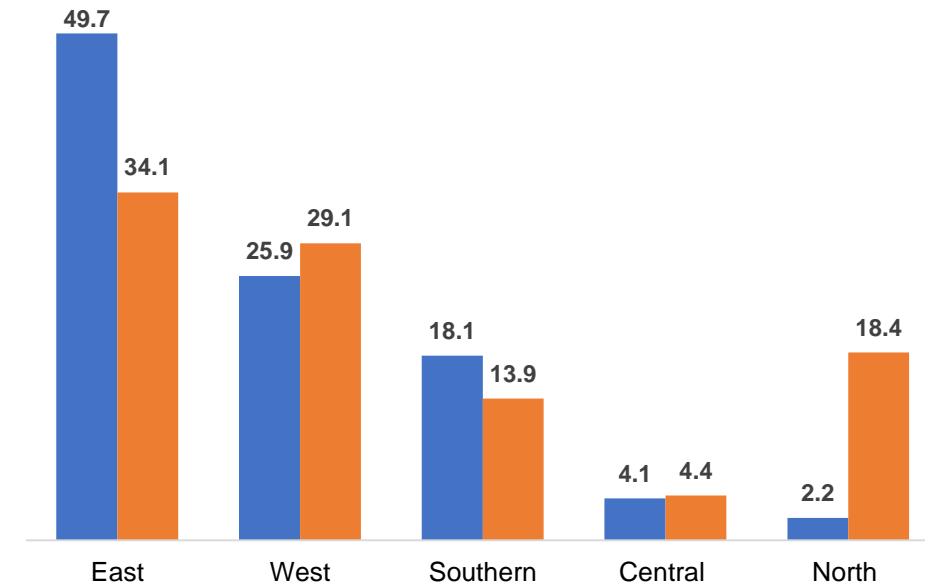
❑ Africa's poverty is unevenly distributed across the sub-regions

- Nearly half of Africa's poor are in East Africa followed by West and Southern sub-regions.
- Central Africa is home to only 4% and North Africa to only 2% of Africa's poor.

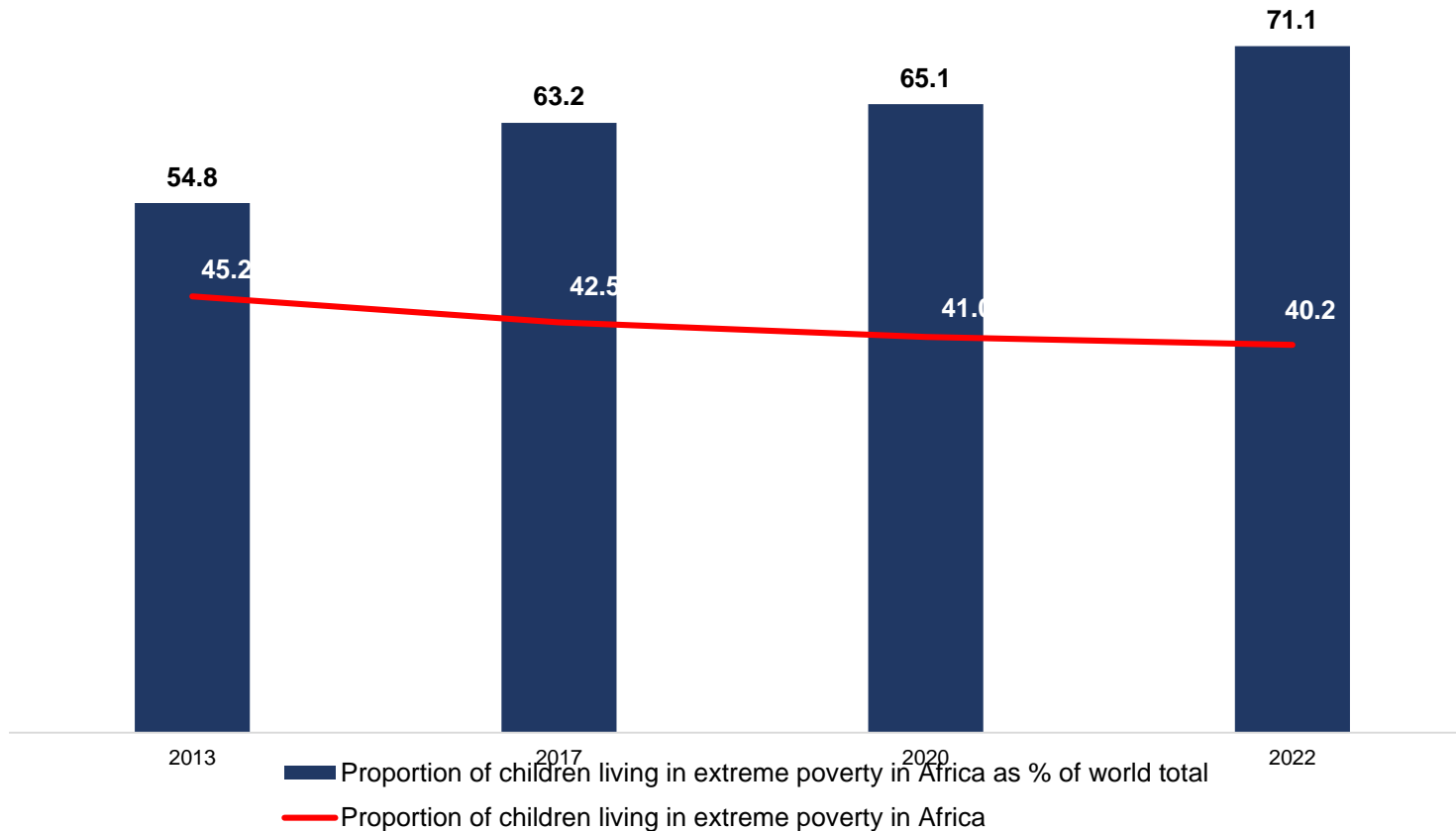


❑ Two sub-regions carry a disproportionately large burden of poverty

- With 34% of Africa's population, East Africa has 50% of Africa's poor population.
- With 14% of Africa's population, Southern Africa has 18% of Africa's poor population.



Slow progress on child poverty in Africa

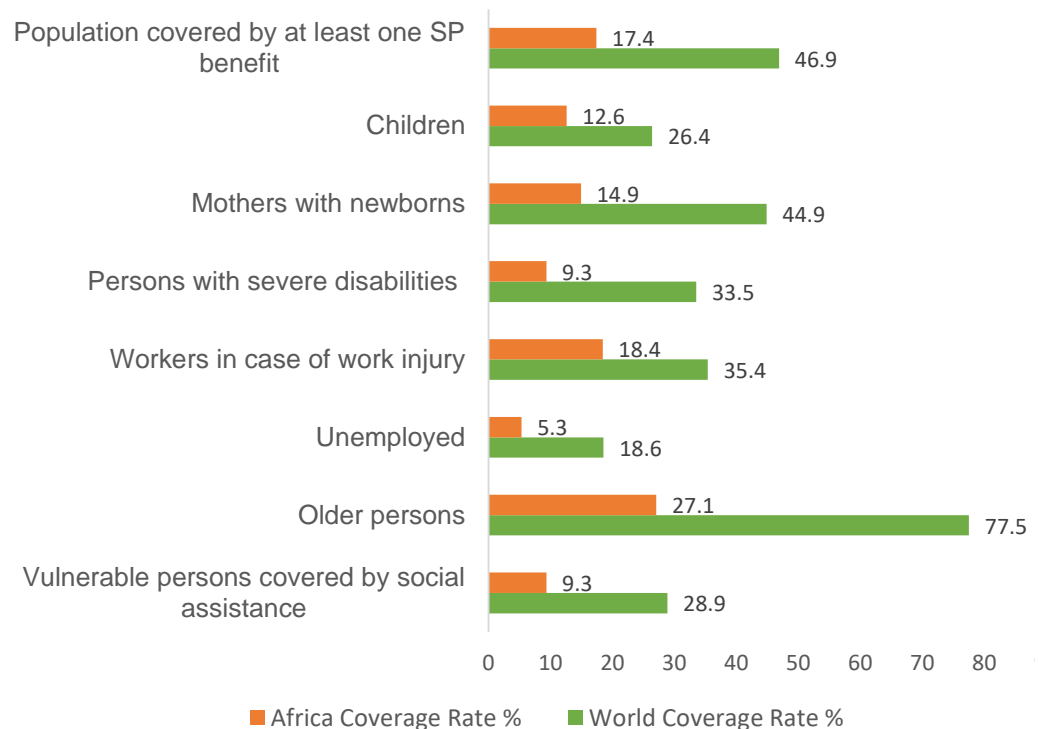


- ❑ Despite progress in the proportion of children living in extreme poverty, 40 percent of children in Africa still live in extreme poverty.
- ❑ More than 70 percent of the world's children in extreme poverty are in Africa.
- ❑ The likelihood of a child in Africa experiencing poverty is 25 percent greater than that for an adult.

Social protection coverage lags behind other regions in all categories

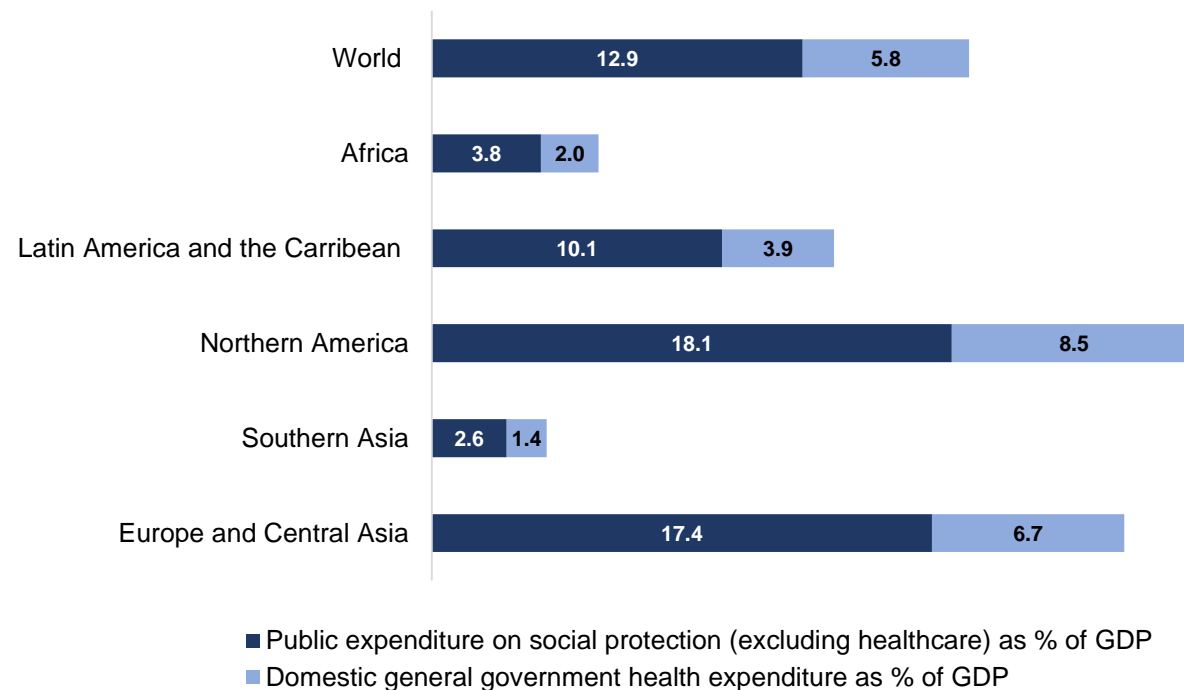


Only an estimated 17.4 per cent of the population is covered by at least one social protection benefit



Effective Social Protection Coverage

There is significant underinvestment in social protection in Africa compared to other global regions



Public expenditure on social protection, % of GDP, 2020 or latest available year

Major Challenges in achieving SDG 1



1. Lack of decent employment opportunities accompanied by low levels of human capital
2. Low coverage of social protection
3. A large informal sector with low labour productivity
4. Different crises – conflict, pandemic, climate change
5. Debt distress that limits the fiscal space for government public investment in health, education, and sanitation

The way forward toward achieving SDG 1



1. Promote **economic diversification** in green sectors and technology to build resilience and generate employment
2. Encourage the **growth of small and medium-sized enterprises** to create jobs
3. Encourage **digitalization and skill development** to improve human capital and the quality of the labour force
4. Explore innovative sources of finance to **expand the fiscal space** and increase (or at least ring-fence) public spending for education, health, and social protection
5. Expand **social protection coverage** to at least 40% of the population in accordance with the ILO Strategy for Social Protection in Africa
6. Ensure that national resources are effectively, efficiently and equitably generated, allocated and spent on programmes and sectors that benefit children, including in early childhood development and social protection to **reduce child poverty**
7. Strengthen national capacities for **disaggregated data collection and analyses** to measure poverty, inequality and vulnerability and target resources appropriately.



THANK YOU!

Ideas
to
Action