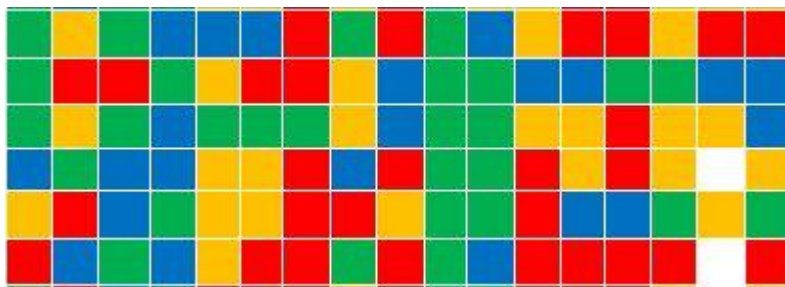




United Nations Economic Commission for Africa



DASHBOARD ON WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES KEY DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCES



*"Socio-economic and demographic dynamics
for development"*

2022 REPORT

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I. Background and Rationale

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is mandated to provide ideas and actions for a self-reliant and transformed Africa within the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063. To enhance its impact, especially in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ECA pays particular attention to collecting up-to-date regional statistics to support policy formulation and advocacy; promote political consensus; support capacity building; and strengthen advisory services in its main thematic areas.

In this context, the Sub-Regional Office for West Africa (ECA/SRO-WA) has adopted an area of specialization focused on "Demographic Dynamics for Development (DDD)". In this regard, ECA/SRO-WA has undertaken to focus its efforts on inclusive development and regional integration in West Africa. The integration of demographic dynamics into development plans and policies at the national and sub-regional levels and the strengthening of the capacity of member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to implement sub-regional development priorities, with due regard to gender perspective, are among the objectives of the office. Also, the ECA/SRO-WA provides appropriate policy support to matters relative to major deficits and emerging development issues in the sub-region.

To achieve those objectives and respond effectively to the various requests from Member Countries and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), several institutional mechanisms have been put in place, including technical assistance to countries, strategic partnerships, capacity building and the production of knowledge products to support decision-making. These mechanisms generate a lot of information that is utilized in the form of reports and tools.

In view of the changing demands and priorities of Member States in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, now joined by competition (from private knowledge production and advisory support structures), ECA's activities have had to adapt to the current realities. In this perspective, in order to strengthen its strategic position as the main think tank in Africa for Member States and IGOs, and to provide satisfactory responses to the various requests over time in order to guide and evaluate sustainable development programmes in the ECOWAS zone and the 2030 and 2063 agendas, innovative solutions capable of enabling it to improve its interventions and be more effective have been adopted. This Dashboard tool intended for instantaneous and informed decision making is one of them. It will serve as a catalyst in the production of knowledge in various areas of interest for the sub-region.

It is in this context that the first-ever edition of the West Africa 2020 Scorecard is being developed, which will provide summary information on trends in key socio-economic

indicators to conduct rapid and informative performance assessments in West African countries. The current tool builds on the strengths of existing knowledge products and the lessons learned from their production and dissemination processes. However, it has been necessary and important to refine it in order to improve its relevance and impact, with greater emphasis on areas of interest to the sub-region. It is intended as a reference tool for policy makers, IGOs in West Africa and other key stakeholders.

This report provides the necessary guidance for the creation of the scorecard and its efficient use. It also provides a visual and analytical overview of key results.

II. Objectives and use of the Dashboard

The West African countries Dashboard aims to:

- assist Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) to have relevant information for knowledge generation, and to better identify, among others, the areas/sectors in which technical assistance and intervention needs can be strengthened in the member countries; and
- provide ECOWAS member States with a user-friendly informative tool for assessing progress on key socio-economic development indicators in the sub-region, including emerging and cross-cutting issues.

This strategic information and decision support tool that summarizes country performance is designed for several potential uses as provided below; integrating core functions of ECA's Sub-Regional Offices in the following way:

<p>Production of Country fact sheets / Country profiles <i>(Think Tank)</i></p>	<p>Stimulating the production of country scorecards, country summary sheets and country analytical reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • based on the overall result. Those knowledge products will be catalysts for applied policy research.
<p>Promotion of constructive dialogue frameworks <i>(Covening)</i></p>	<p>Generating reflections on issues of interest to West Africa and on ways to accelerate progress in areas of interest to each country. Sharing good practices between countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for concrete and effective actions. Reviewing of the knowledge products that will emerge from the Scoreboard should facilitate the implementation of policy recommendations.

<p>Analysis and monitoring of ECOWAS countries' progress (Operational)</p>	<p>Assessing the performance of ECOWAS countries against a specific indicator or to review a country's performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on a range of indicators in areas of interest, with a view to providing policy advice to countries.
<p>Identification of development challenges in ECOWAS countries (Operational)</p>	<p>Identifying and understand the areas in which each ECOWAS country has made the most progress and identify the gap against specific indicators in order to determine priorities for achieving strategic objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing necessary support for innovative solutions to development problems and ensure capacity development of countries.

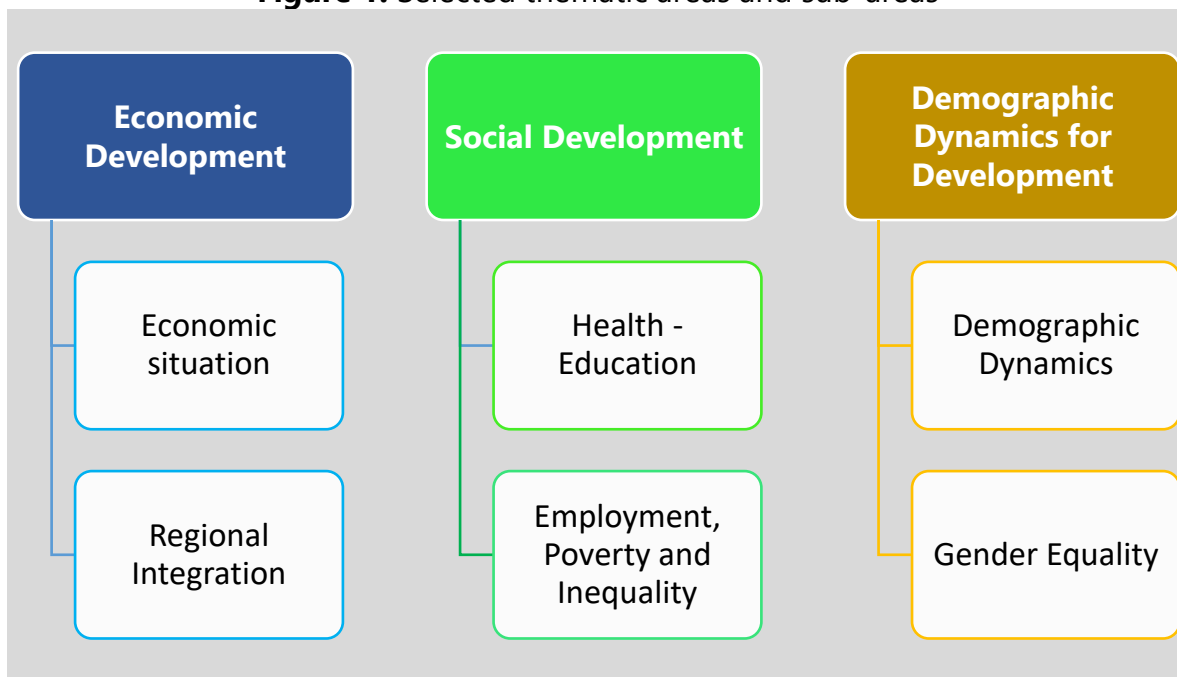
III. Methodological approach and guidance on the use of the dashboard and performance assessment

III.1 Selection of thematic areas and indicators

The dashboard integrates a selection of socio-economic indicators that are key to explaining economic and social performance in West African countries, including regional integration and demographic dynamics for development. Indicators relating to cross-cutting issues such as gender and youth are also taken into account in order to better guide national and sub-regional policies.

Thus, to monitor and evaluate performance in regional integration and demographic dynamics for development at the national and sub-regional levels, a more comprehensive perspective of selecting key indicators with multiple and intergenerational benefits is favoured, considering data availability. Those indicators are then grouped into 3 main interrelated thematic areas, so that progress in one area is often closely associated with progress in another. Within each of these 3 thematic areas, 2 sub-thematic areas are selected.

Figure 1: Selected thematic areas and sub-areas



Source: ECA

Once the thematic areas and sub-areas had been identified, an inventory of potential indicators is made. The final choice of these indicators is then guided by 3 essential criteria:

- **Relevance:** Indicators should be relevant to the monitoring and achievement of regional integration and the SDGs in a West African context. They should also be related to emerging development challenges and issues in the region. These measures should be comparable among ECOWAS countries and allow for a comparison of their performance. The indicators should measure an outcome for which a quantitative performance threshold can be established.
- **Quality and frequency:** The indicators should provide the most recent measures published by official sources. Sub-regional, continental and international data sources with reliable and efficient statistical production capacity (available methodology, regularity and timeliness in the publication of statistics) are considered.
- **Coverage:** Data should be available for the majority of ECOWAS countries. A level of coverage between 80 and 100% is preferred. However, effort should be made to cover all 15 countries of the region on all targeted indicators where data exist.

III.2 Method of constructing the Dashboard and determining the performance scores

III.2.1. Dashboard user guide: Performance classification thresholds and associated colours

The methodology for constructing the dashboard is based on the definition of standard quantitative thresholds for each of the indicators, to which colors and scores are associated. For a given indicator, four quantitative thresholds are established to categorize its value (see Table 1). These thresholds used for categorizing the indicators are based on available international standards, including (i) thresholds defined for the construction of the SDG Index dashboard in Africa, (ii) ECOWAS convergence criteria, (iii) thresholds defined by international institutions (WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, etc.), (iv) thresholds established as part of AU and ECOWAS commitments on key indicators in specific sectors such as health, education, etc. Where no global threshold is applicable for a given indicator, the classification (threshold) is based on performance relative to other countries, using statistical methods: quartiles¹. Table 1 presents the thresholds applied in the categorization of the indicators selected in the construction of the dashboard.

Table 1: Summary of selected indicators and thresholds applied in the categorization

Thematic areas and sub-areas & Indicators		Categorization thresholds, colors and associated values			
		4	3	2	1
Thematic Area 1: Economic Development					
Economic situation					
1.1.	Real GDP growth rate (%)	≥ 5	$2 \leq x < 5$	$0 \leq x < 2$	< 0
1.2.	Inflation rate, annual average (%)	≤ 5	$5 < x \leq 7$	$7 < x \leq 10$	> 10
1.3.	Overall budget deficit including grants (% of GDP)	≤ 3	$3 < x \leq 5$	$5 < x \leq 8$	> 8
1.4.	Public debt ratio (% of GDP)	≤ 70	$70 < x \leq 90$	$90 < x \leq 120$	> 120
1.5.	Current account deficit (% of GDP)	≤ 5	$5 < x \leq 5$	$7 < x \leq 10$	> 10
1.6.	Total investment (% of GDP)	≥ 25	$20 \leq x < 25$	$15 \leq x < 20$	< 15
Regional Integration					
1.7.	Africa Regional Integration Index (ARII)	≥ 0.66	$0.5 \leq x < 0.66$	$0.33 \leq x < 0.5$	< 0.33
1.8.	Trade Integration	≥ 0.66	$0.5 \leq x < 0.66$	$0.33 \leq x < 0.5$	< 0.33
1.9.	Productive integration	≥ 0.66	$0.5 \leq x < 0.66$	$0.33 \leq x < 0.5$	< 0.33
1.10.	Macroeconomic integration	≥ 0.66	$0.5 \leq x < 0.66$	$0.33 \leq x < 0.5$	< 0.33
1.11.	Infrastructural Integration	≥ 0.66	$0.5 \leq x < 0.66$	$0.33 \leq x < 0.5$	< 0.33
1.12.	Free movement of people	≥ 0.66	$0.5 \leq x < 0.66$	$0.33 \leq x < 0.5$	< 0.33

¹ Method of dividing a sample of data into four parts of equal size

Thematic Area 2: Social Development					
Health and Education					
2.1.	Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	≤12	12<x≤17	17<x≤22	>22
2.2.	Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)	≤25	25<x≤42	42<x≤60	>60
2.3.	Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)	≤70	70<x≤119	119<x≤168	>168
2.4.	Number of physicians (per 1,000 people)	≥0.1	0.08≤x<0.1	0.05≤x<0.08	<0.05
2.5.	Births attended by skilled health personnel (% of total)	≥98	85≤x<98	72≤x<85	<72
2.6.	Prevalence of stunting	≤7.5	7.5<x≤15	15<x≤22	>22
2.7.	Youth literacy rate (% of youth aged 15-24)	≥95	82≤x<95	68≤x<82	<68
2.8.	Female literacy rate (% of women aged 15 and over)	≥70	50≤x<70	30≤x<50	<30
2.9.	Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education	≥90	70≤x<90	50≤x<70	<50
2.10.	Average number of years of schooling	≥6.5	5≤x<6.5	3.5≤x<5	<3.5
2.11.	Human Capital Index	≥0.55	0.45≤x<0.55	0.35≤x<0.45	<0.35
Employment, Poverty and Inequality					
2.12.	Unemployment rate (15-24)	≤5	5<x≤7	7<x≤10	>10
2.13.	Youth NEET rate (% 15-24)	≤10	10<x≤12	12<x≤15	>15
2.14.	Proportion of working poor	≤10	10<x≤30	30<x≤45	>45
2.15.	Poverty rate	≤15	15<x≤34	34<x≤50	>50
2.16.	Gini index	≤30	30<x≤46	46<x≤62	>62
2.17.	Population living in slums (% of urban population)	≤15	15<x≤25	25<x≤66	>66
2.18.	Human Development Index (HDI)	≥0.8	0.7≤x<0.8	0.555≤x<0.7	<0.555
Thematic Area 3: Demographic Dynamics for Development					
Demographic dynamics					
3.1.	Annual population growth rate (%)	≤1	1<x≤2	2<x≤3	>3
3.2.	Dependency ratio	≤50	50<x≤70	70<x≤90	>90
3.3.	Total fertility rate	≤2	2<x≤4	4<x≤6	>6
3.4.	Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	≥80	64≤x<80	48≤x<64	<48
3.5.	Crude birth rate	≤20	20<x≤30	30<x≤40	>40
3.6.	Crude death rate	≤5	5<x≤7	7<x≤10	>10
Gender equality					
3.7.	Gender Inequality Index	≤0.20	0.20<x≤0.35	0.35<x≤0.50	>0.50
3.8.	Proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49) using modern family planning methods	≥75	50≤x<75	25≤x<50	<25
3.9.	Teenage birth rate (15-19 years) (per 1,000 teenage girls of the same age group)	≤25	25<x≤40	40<x≤60	>60
3.10.	Prevalence of child marriage (percentage)	≤25	25<x≤50	50<x≤75	>75
3.11.	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 who have undergone female genital mutilation (%)	≤25	25<x≤50	50<x≤75	>75

Source: ECA, based on various international standards

Table 2: Dashboard reading grid

Color Strips		Related notes	Description
	White	0	Missing value
	Red	1	Level rated critical
	Orange	2	Level rated low
	Blue	3	Level rated moderate
	Green	4	Level rated high

Source: ECA

III.2.2. Performance analysis: Calculation of scores and interpretation

The dashboard allows for two levels of performance analysis:

1. Visual assessment of performance based on color dominance and calculation of the following statistics:
 - Percentage of missing data
 - Percentage of indicator values rated as "critical" and "low"
 - Percentage of indicator values rated as "moderate" and "high".
2. Calculation of performance scores by thematic area: The dashboard provides an analysis of the performance of ECOWAS countries in each thematic area. To do this, for each indicator, a score is calculated by taking the ratio of the value associated with its value by the maximum value i.e. 4 (Value rated as "high") and then multiplying it by 100. The performance score for a given thematic area is calculated as an unweighted arithmetic average of the scores for the indicators in that thematic area.

The scores range from 0 to 100 and reflect the efforts/progress of countries in a thematic area. This makes it possible to immediately identify the area in which a country is doing relatively well or not. The score obtained by a country for a given area can also be compared to the median score for all ECOWAS countries (Figure 2). Based on the scores obtained and the evaluation grid defined (Table 3), a visual performance map of West Africa is produced that places each member country in one of the performance categories.

Table 3: Performance evaluation grid




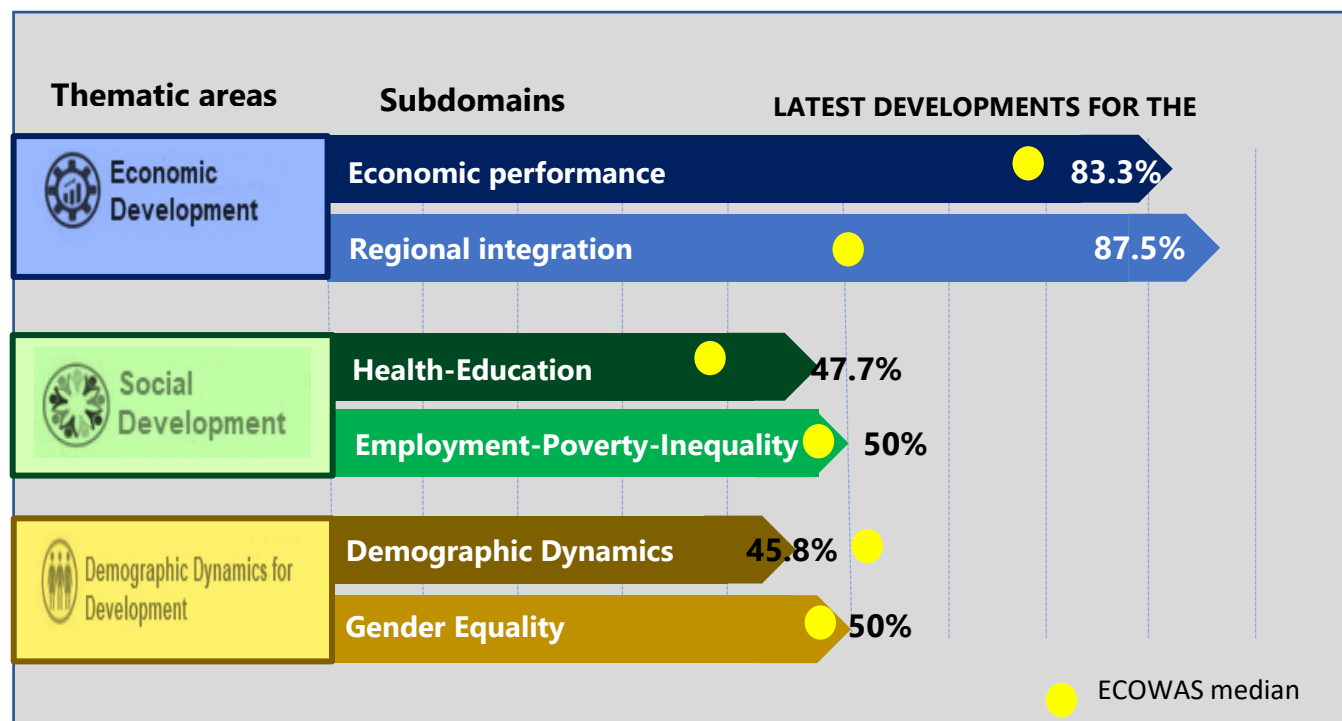
General category	Indicator scores in each area	Color associated
Low performance	Score below 50	
Moderate performance	Score between 50 and 70	
High performance	Score above 70 and 100	

Figure 2: Results for each sub-domain for country A compared to the median of ECOWAS member countries



Source: Author, calculations based on dashboard results

For more information (in prospect)
<p>More details are available on the website https://www.uneca.org/west-africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excel file containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All the details on the indicators (sources with access link, level of coverage, thresholds of classification by colours, ...) ➤ Databases covering the period 2015-2020 ➤ Dashboard visualization tools • Full report including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The methodological approach to building the scorecard ➤ Guidelines for using the dashboard ➤ The main results

IV. Main results

IV.1 Dashboard visual overview of the selected indicators

The 2021 edition of the West Africa Countries dashboard provides a visual overview of the performance of West African countries against key indicators grouped and analysed around the following thematic areas of interest: i) Economic Development, ii) Social Development, and iii) Demographic Dynamics for Development. Data are available for 41 indicators mainly for the period 2015 to 2021. As the most recent data was used to construct the 2021 table and assess performance, the rate of missing data is 2%. Based on these data, for all ECOWAS countries, the percentage of indicator values classified as "critical" and "poor" is around 34% and 33%. This is reflected in the dominance of the colors red and orange in the 2021 scorecard for ECOWAS countries (Figure 3). The values of the indicators classified as "moderate" and "good" show rates of 14% and 16% respectively for all ECOWAS countries.

Figure 3: Visualization of ECOWAS Countries' dashboard, 2021

	Economic Development												Social Development												Demographic Dynamics for Development																			
	Economic situation						Regional Integration						Health and Education								Employment, Poverty and Inequality				Demographic Dynamics					Gender equality														
	Real GDP growth rate (%)	Inflation rate, annual average (%)	Overall budget deficit including grants (% of GDP)	Public debt ratio (% of GDP)	Current account deficit (% of GDP)	Total investment (% of GDP)	Africa Regional Integration Index (ARI)	Trade Integration	Productive integration	Macroeconomic integration	Infrastructural Integration	Free movement of people	Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)	Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)	Number of physicians (per 1,000 people)	Births attended by skilled health personnel (% of total)	Prevalence of stunting	Youth literacy rate (% of youth aged 15-24)	Female literacy rate (% of women aged 15 and over)	Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education	Average number of years of schooling	Human Capital Index	Unemployment rate (15-24)	Youth NEET rate (% 15-24)	Proportion of working poor	Poverty rate	Gini index	Population living in slums (% of urban population)	Human Development Index (HDI)	Annual population growth rate (%)	Dependency ratio	Total fertility rate	Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	Crude birth rate	Crude death rate	Gender Inequality Index	Proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49) using modern family planning methods	Teenage birth rate (15-19 years) (per 1,000 teenage girls of the same age group)	Prevalence of child marriage (percentage)	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 who have undergone female genital mutilation (%)			
Country	1.1.	1.2.	1.3.	1.4	1.5.	1.6.	1.7.	1.8.	1.9.	1.10.	1.11.	1.12.	2.1.	2.2.	2.3.	2.4.	2.5.	2.6.	2.7.	2.8.	2.9.	2.10.	2.11.	2.12.	2.13.	2.14.	2.15.	2.16.	2.17.	2.18.	3.1.	3.2.	3.3.	3.4.	3.5.	3.6.	3.7.	3.8.	3.9.	3.10.	3.11.			
Benin	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Blue	Green			
Burkina Faso	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Red	Blue	Green	Red	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	
Cabo Verde	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Red	Blue	Green	Red	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red	
Côte d'Ivoire	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Red	Blue	Green	Red	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Gambia, The	Green	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Red	Blue	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Ghana	Blue	Yellow	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Green	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow		
Guinea	Blue	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Red	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Red	Red	
Guinea-Bissau	Blue	Green	Yellow	Blue	Green	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Blue	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	White	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Blue	
Libéria	Blue	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	White	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Orange	Blue	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue		
Mali	Blue	Green	Blue	Green	Green	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Green	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	White	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
Niger	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Red	Orange	Orange	Red	Orange	Green	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
Nigeria	Blue	Red	Orange	Green	Green	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Green	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Red	Green	Orange	Orange	Red	Red	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Green		
Senegal	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Red	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Red	Blue	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Sierra Leone	Blue	Red	Blue	Red	Orange	Orange	Red	Blue	Blue	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Red	
Togo	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Red	Orange	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Orange	Orange	Red	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Green

Rating: Green=Good; Blue=Moderate; Orange=Low; Red=Critical; White=Unavailable data

IV.2 Evaluation of the performance of ECOWAS: Overview of the main results

Figure 4: ECOWAS Global Performance Map, 2021



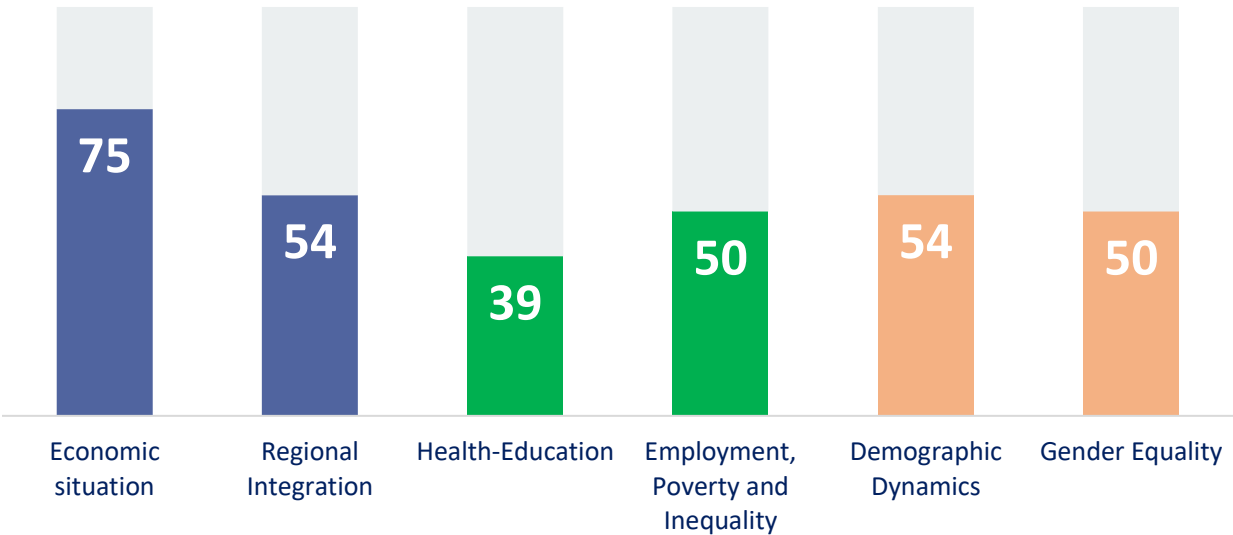
Source: ECA

The performance scores for all the selected indicators, by country and for the ECOWAS region, allow some lessons to be drawn and analyses to be made. The maps in Figure 4 shows the performance of each ECOWAS country on the three identified thematic area. This year, based on available data, West Africa is making good progress with solid results in economic development.

By thematic area, when viewed on aggregate, it appears that overall West African countries score better on economic development, with a median score for ECOWAS of about 67%. The median scores reflecting progress on DDD and social development in ECOWAS are 50% and 43% respectively.

At the level of thematic sub-areas, progress on economic development of ECOWAS countries, especially in economic performance, is far superior to progress in social performance ("Health and Education" which has been heavily impacted by the recent COVID-19 pandemic). These large gaps, which seem to persist, call for additional efforts needed to achieve key sustainable development goals by 2030. However, encouraging progress in favour of "Gender Equality" (50/100) and "Employment, Poverty and Inequality" (50/100) can be noted in West Africa.

Figure 5: ECOWAS Scores by Thematic Subareas, 2021



Source: ECA

In the area of Economic Development: West Africa's performance has been remarkable both in terms of economic performance and regional integration. Fourteen out of fifteen ECOWAS countries have a performance score above 50%, including five with scores above 70%, with the best performance held by Côte d'Ivoire at 88% in 2021 (Annex 3). Analysis

of selected indicators in this area suggests high economic growth rates for most ECOWAS countries over the last ten years, with the average five-year growth rate being 6.3% between 2010 and 2014 and 2.8% between 2015 and 2019. However, West Africa's real GDP growth dropped to -0.7% in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the negative effects of which were mainly felt by Cape Verde, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Mali and Nigeria (IMF, Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa, April 2022).

About the main macroeconomic convergence criteria, those relating to the public debt ratio and inflation control were the most respected by most ECOWAS countries in 2020. In terms of regional integration, the best performance of ECOWAS countries lies in the dimension of free movement of people, thus testifying to the realization of ECOWAS vision 2020 which aimed at creating a borderless region, an achievement which is demonstrated by the open visa policies of ECOWAS members (ECA-CUA-AfDB, IIRA 2019).

In the area of Social Development: Social development remains a challenge for most West African countries, as evidenced by the performance scores under this thematic area, which are below 50% for 80% of ECOWAS member countries. From the analysis of selected indicators, it emerges that countries perform relatively poorly in terms of human capital, because of shortcomings in the health and education sectors. The World Bank's Human Capital Index ranks the other ECOWAS member countries, except for Ghana, in the lowest quartile category for this index in 2020.

Youth employment is also a major development issue in West Africa, unemployment rates are low in most ECOWAS member countries, however many jobs created are not decent, as illustrated by the current situation of the working poor in West Africa, the proportion of the latter exceeds 30% (performance judged either critical or low) in seven (7) ECOWAS member countries

Poverty has declined significantly in West Africa since 2010. In 2019, 36.0% of ECOWAS citizens were living below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day compared to 49.0% in 2010. However, poverty continues to be a threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the area of Demographic Dynamics for Development: The performance of ECOWAS members in terms of demographic dynamics for development is mixed. Seven countries have a performance score above 50%, while 8 countries have scores below 50%. Due to the still high total fertility rates in most member states, West Africa appears to be the most populous region in Africa. From the analysis of available data, those indices show an average of more than 5 children per woman in 5 countries in 2020 and an average of more than 4 children per woman in 13 ECOWAS States. High fertility in West Africa is partly linked to the low access of populations to reproductive health, particularly to

contraceptive methods and to the high prevalence of early marriages in some countries, as well as to the high birth rate among adolescents (10 to 14 and 15 to 19 years).

Regarding gender inequality, the results are not very encouraging, as the phenomenon continues to characterize West African society. The UNDP Gender Inequality Index (GII) shows that 9 countries out of the 15 Member States are in the bottom 20 of the world ranking in 2019. The inequalities mainly concern access to education, health and the labour market. The situation is globally unfavourable to women in all countries in terms of employment.

IV.3 Limitations and prospects

The West Africa Country dashboard is part of the ECA's decision support tools that allows for the rapid assessment and monitoring of the performance of ECOWAS countries based on key socio-economic development indicators, including regional integration and demographic dynamics for development. Given the methodology described above, specific indicators may not have been considered in this first edition of Dashboard. Therefore, caution should be exercised in interpreting results based on scores alone.

However, the enrichment of this tool through frequent updating of the database and the report offers opportunities to overcome certain limitations, with a view to ensuring better ownership of the tool by all ECA partners. Thus, the following main actions could be necessary conditions for future editions:

- incorporate new thematic areas (sub-areas) and/or relevant indicators over time and give priority to national sources. In view of the initiatives to support the development of statistics at the sub-regional level with a view to strengthening the data and knowledge production ecosystem, better prospects should arise for regular updating of the scoreboard and thus integrating relevant indicators into future editions with priority to be given to national sources. To this end, the contribution of ECA/SRO-WA partners (CREG, National Institute of Statistics, other data producers, etc.) will make it possible to strengthen the availability and quality of data on the indicators;
- incorporate trends in the analysis of performance progress: The current Scoreboard and report provide indications of country performance at a specific time. However, country trajectories are also important for assessing progress in each thematic area/sub-area and commitments to strategic objectives. The current tool can be adapted by using statistics from previous years, e.g. 2015, which will allow for 2015 and 2020 scorecards. Better yet, scores from 2015 to 2020 can also be generated, then projections made (for 2030, for example); and
- improve the dissemination of this tool to all potential users. To facilitate a good appropriation of this tool and to make it accessible to all, the report could be accompanied by an appropriate framework (e.g. a dedicated website) and a data visualization tool to improve communication on the status of West African countries in relation to key indicators or thematic areas.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Number of indicators per category, by country

	1	2	3	4
Benin	11	21	1	8
Burkina Faso	14	14	6	7
Cabo Verde	8	4	11	14
Côte d'Ivoire	9	14	9	9
Gambia, The	12	16	6	6
Ghana	9	14	9	8
Guinea	17	11	5	6
Guinea-Bissau	16	12	4	6
Liberia	20	12	4	4
Mali	20	11	4	5
Niger	24	10	1	6
Nigeria	13	15	5	7
Senegal	10	16	10	5
Sierra Leone	18	16	6	1
Togo	11	15	7	8

Appendix 2: ECOWAS member countries' scores by thematic sub-areas, 2021

	Economic Situation	Regional Integration	Health and Education	Employment, Poverty and Inequality	Demographic Dynamics	Gender equality
Benin	92%	50%	39%	50%	50%	55%
Burkina Faso	92%	67%	36%	50%	50%	40%
Cabo Verde	63%	54%	88%	63%	83%	58%
Côte d'Ivoire	88%	88%	48%	57%	46%	50%
Gambia, The	79%	54%	45%	57%	50%	40%
Ghana	63%	50%	64%	64%	63%	50%
Guinea	75%	54%	33%	57%	50%	38%
Guinea-Bissau	79%	42%	39%	39%	50%	63%
Liberia	70%	38%	30%	50%	50%	50%
Mali	83%	54%	32%	42%	42%	35%
Niger	71%	46%	25%	54%	33%	45%
Nigeria	75%	58%	48%	43%	46%	63%
Senegal	75%	71%	39%	50%	58%	60%
Sierra Leone	50%	46%	34%	54%	46%	40%
Togo	92%	58%	45%	50%	50%	60%
ECOWAS (Median)	75%	54%	39%	50%	50%	50%

Appendix 3 : ECOWAS member countries' scores by thematic areas, 2021

	Economic development	Social development	Demographic Dynamics for Development
Benin	71%	43%	52%
Burkina Faso	79%	42%	45%
Cabo Verde	58%	78%	75%
Côte d'Ivoire	88%	51%	48%
Gambia, The	67%	50%	45%
Ghana	56%	64%	58%

Guinea	65%	43%	45%
Guinea-Bissau	60%	39%	55%
Liberia	52%	38%	50%
Mali	69%	35%	39%
Niger	58%	36%	39%
Nigeria	67%	46%	53%
Senegal	73%	43%	59%
Sierra Leone	48%	42%	43%
Togo	75%	47%	55%
ECOWAS (Median)	67%	43%	50%