2019 Africa Sustainable Development Report

Summary

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Overview

2019 Africa Sustainable Development Report assesses progress on six SDGs & related Goals of Agenda 2063

Fourth year of implementation; Reporting builds on earlier reports (2017, 2018) & legacy of MDGs

Consistent with the Theme of 2019 High-Level Political Forum: “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”

Prepared by ECA, AUC, AfDB, UNDP, APRM-Secretariat.

2019 ASDR| Summary
Progress on primary education; but coverage low
*Expand child-friendly, disability- gender- sensitive schools*

**Inclusive growth needed**: GDP growth <7% target to achieve sustainable development.

**Higher labour productivity** key to sustainable development efforts: ↑ by only 0.8% (2017-2018) [2.7% globally]

**Trade a key to sustainable development and structural transformation**: Aid-for-Trade commitments to Africa more than doubled - 2007-2016

**Large investment needs for SDGs**: $600-638 bn p.a.
Infrastructure spending ≈$72 bn p.a; gaps $50-$93 bn p.a
Progress

78.9% (2015) ➔ 82.3% (2017) Primary

But completion rates low: 64%, 37% & 27% - primary, lower- & upper-secondary, resp. [Globally ≈85%; 73% & 49% at primary, lower- and upper-secondary]

High out-of-school population high: 21%, 36% & 57% in primary, lower- & upper- secondary, resp.

Invest more to ensure inclusive & equitable quality education & promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
New frontier of growth

Sustained growth since 2000
≈4 % p.a. (2010-15); ≈3.2% (2017-18)
Positive medium-term prospects

Potential of Africa’s young population: Africa’s labour force will be ≈1.1 billion by 2030.

But growth is:
• Below 7% p.a. needed to achieve the SDGs
• Not inclusive, ...
• Low levels of technology
• Large informal sector

Limited access to financial services

Africa excl North
North Africa
World
Women
Men
Africa is one of the most unequal regions globally

Income; access to & outcomes in health and education, ...

- Gini Coef. for Africa excl. N. Africa was ≈0.43
- 7/10 of world’s most unequal countries in Africa;

- Incomes of bottom 40% grew by > 5% in only two countries (2012-2016).
- Four countries registered negative growth

Social protection systems serve only a few:
- Only 5% of unemployed persons received cash benefits in 2015; [22% globally]
- Children & women bear the brunt of poverty: ≈49% of children live in extreme poverty
Africa is making progress on this goal
• Increasing investments & progress in implementing disaster risk reduction actions
• Stronger coordination and partnerships
• All countries signed the Paris Agreement; over 70% ratified
• The N’gor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene (2015) → scale up efforts to address
• Large data gaps!
Slow progress in reducing violence and related death rates; large data gaps

- 3 countries had homicides of >10,000 per 100,000;
- 25 countries had 100-5,000 deaths/ 100,000 in 2015.

Only nine countries reported of victims of trafficking by age and sex (2014-2016)
- Over 40% of trafficked victims under-15 girls
- For nine countries with data, 1/10 of women aged 18-29 experienced sexual violence; incidence higher (15%) in conflict areas
Large financing needs
• Annual investment needs: $600-638 bn; ≈1/3 of total GDP
• Infrastructure spending at ≈ $72 bn p.a.; 65% from domestic resources
• But, infrastructure financing gaps ≈$50-$93 bn p.a.
• Energy access for all needs at ≈$30-$55 bn p.a. by 2025

Government revenue-to-GDP ratios low; some improvements,
• Government revenue-to-GDP ratio ≈24.7% (2000-2017);
• Tax-to-GDP ratio ↑ from ≈12% (2000) to 16% (2014)
⇒ scope for more tax revenue generation
Emerging issues, opportunities, challenges

- **Quality education and effective learning** critical to realizing sustainable development
- **Address inequality for greater traction**
- Measures to combat climate change a priority and responsibility of all
- Mobilize **additional resources from multiple sources for sustainable development**: scope for raising tax & non-tax revenue
- **Trade above aid**: Africa’s share of global merchandise exports is low, 2.4% in 2017
THANK YOU!

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