



IMAGES Policy Digest

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Ending Poverty in Africa: A Promise or Mirage?

Preamble

The 2019 Africa Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index ranks 52 African countries based on 97 indicators across all 17 goals. The SDGs Index score signifies a country's position between the worst (0) and best (100) outcomes. Tunisia tops this year's ranking with a score of 66.01 which implies that the country is 66% of the way towards achieving the SDGs, according to SDG Centre for Africa and Sustainable Development Solutions Networks (SDSN) 2019. The top 5 ranked countries are North African countries, with Tunisia in first position followed by Mauritius, Algeria, Morocco, Cape Verde in second, third, fourth and fifth position respectively. Notwithstanding, these top performers are still more than 30% of the way from achieving the SDGs by 2030. Low performers are mainly composed of fragile states, with high levels of poverty and conflict in their territories. These include South Sudan, Central African Republic and Chad with score of 29.2, 36.7 and 38.7 respectively. Seychelles and Libya are excluded due to insufficient data availability. Overall, the average score across all countries is just 52.3 (52.7 after weighting by population), implying that Africa is barely halfway to achieving the SDGs, and the situation holds little promise to achieving SDGs in the continent except bold reforms are implemented.

Progress on Achieving No Poverty Status

Progress towards achievement of SDG 1 on ending poverty is measured based on three indicators:

Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day (% population):

This refers to estimated proportion of each country's population that in 2018 are living under the poverty threshold of US\$ 1.90 a day. This is obtained by using historical estimates of the income distribution, projections of population changes by age and educational attainment, and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) projections.

Proportion of population living below the national poverty line:

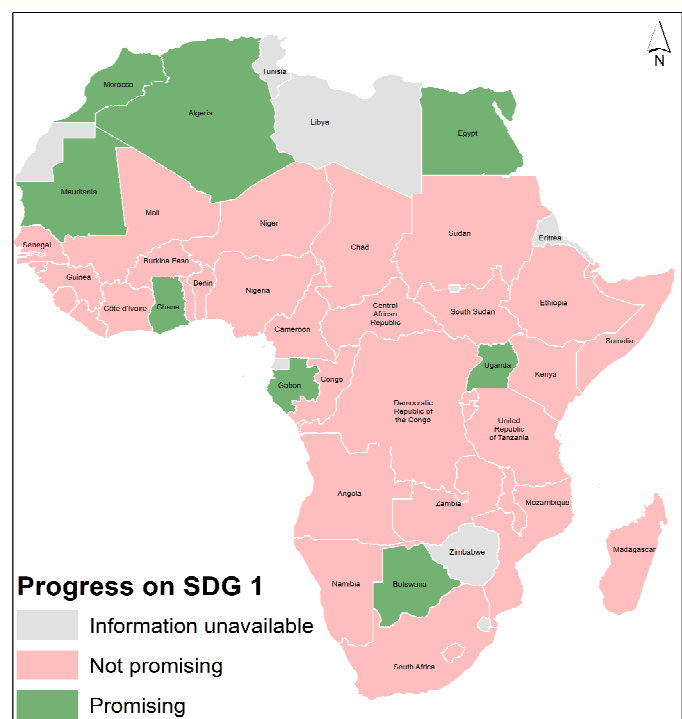
This is the percentage of the population living below the national poverty lines (defined by each country). This was obtained based on population-weighted sub-group estimates from household surveys.

Population covered by Social Protection (%):

Refers to percentage of population participating in social protection and labour programme. This indicator was estimated by social protection programme type for the entire population and by quintiles of both the post-transfer and pre-transfer welfare distribution. Programmes are aggregated into social assistance, social insurance and labour

market according to World Bank's Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) classification.

The result of re-analysis of the data from SDG Centre and SDSN (2019), reveals that only 8 out of 55 the countries (15 percent) in Africa are on track and holds promise on ending poverty. On the Map, the green coloured notes promising situation on achievement of SDG 1 and this status is assigned to the country making progress on at least two of the three indicators under SDG 1. The pink indicates otherwise while grey colour implies that information was not available.



Prospects on Ending Poverty in Africa

For non-promising nations to improve their performances on this SDG 1, they need to dedicate themselves to human-centric and right-based as well as pragmatic approach to ending poverty. Targeted and holistic measures should be taken to reduce vulnerability to disasters and address specific underserved geographic areas and groups through entrepreneurship, wealth creation and inclusive growth.

Bibliography

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About IMAGES

The Interconnections for Making Africa Great, Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative is a not-for-profit and non-political organisation focused on advocacy, research and public education on varied issues relating empowerment and sustainable development in Africa. We strive to advance the course of the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa Agenda 2063 through Research, Advocacy, Field Trips, Conferences, Seminars, Policy Roundtables, Workshops, Symposia, Summits, Exhibitions, and Communications through Policy Briefs, Communiqués, Quarterly Newsletters and Social Media Platforms.

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