

SUMMARY

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# AFRICA

SDG INDEX AND  
DASHBOARDS REPORT 2018



THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS  
CENTER FOR  
AFRICA



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
SOLUTIONS NETWORK  
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

# Foreword

**The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal agenda, calling on all nations to pursue economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability, on the basis of good governance. This report creates, for the first time, a measurement of progress on the SDGs tailored specifically to African countries.**

However, the Africa SDG Index is more than a report – it is a tool for local and national governments, academia, and civil society to take ownership over African development trajectories and for revitalizing partnerships to achieve sustainable development. The Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report can support national governments in tracking progress and narrating their own development priorities, but important gaps remain. Investing in the improvement of statistical systems contributes to better informed policies, faster response times to pressing issues, increased civic engagement, and of course, markedly improved transparency and accountability. Recognizing this reality is an important part of this report, and we hope to see African governments move towards enhancing national statistical monitoring systems.

The report is also a call to action for governments to focus efforts on the SDGs with new information on where they stand. The Dashboards should help each African country identify priorities for action, understand key implementation challenges, and identify the gaps that must be closed in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030. We hope this report supports African discussions about priorities in achieving the SDGs and that it is operationalized into a tool for national and regional discussion and planning. Our vision is for an official day on which African countries will convene stakeholders in their respective countries around the SDGs, with this report presented as a useful tool for analysis and action. The “Africa SDG Day” would allow all actors to discuss appropriate SDG strategies given their national contexts and the findings of this and related reports. Additionally, we hope that the results of this report are disseminated in creative ways into local communities to spark collective and inclusive engagement on ways they can contextualize the SDGs and spur on progress.

Thank you for reading this first edition of the Africa SDG Index. We hope to continue this discussion throughout further annual publications of the Index, and support collaboration for the achievement of the SDGs in Africa.



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## Background and Purpose

The SDG Center for Africa and the SDSN are jointly publishing this annual Africa SDG Index and Dashboards report to support national and regional discussions on where each country stands with regards to achieving the SDGs and on which metrics might be useful to track progress. The report collects and synthesizes the most recent available data on the SDGs from official and unofficial sources and unlocks the power of that data to inform governments, business, multilateral organizations, and—most importantly—citizens about their country's achievement in and commitment to the SDGs, to ensure accountability, and to incubate commitment to change. It includes a common core set of indicators from the global SDG Index and Dashboards report, and a set of indicators that are pertinent to the African context. These variables, collectively, provide a richer assessment of the SDG-related challenges faced by African countries and how successful they are in overcoming them.

Furthermore, elements of the Agenda 2063 have been incorporated, in particular some measures of continental integration, a core component of this African agenda, were added into the metrics in Goal 17. Thanks to this African focus, the Africa SDG Index better allows each country to understand its situation and compare itself within the region and with peers at similar levels of overall social and economic development.

## 1. The SDGs, Agenda 2063 and High Five

In 2013, African Union (AU) member states crafted an African-driven vision “Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want” that outlined how the African continent should look in 50 years based on the pillars of wealth generation, regional integration, and attainment of a peaceful society, all driven by Africans. In 2015, UN member states unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda, which balances the dimensions of economic, social and environmental development, underpinned by good governance.

Both agendas include specific sets of goals. The Agenda 2063 (A2063) has 20 goals with 174 targets, while the SDGs include 17 goals and 169 corresponding targets. These goals broadly converge on social and human capital development, inclusive economic growth, peaceful societies, accountable institutions, and environmental sustainability dimensions. However, there are topics of divergence as well. Crucially, these agendas are operating in very different time frames: only 15 years for the

SDGs against 50 for the A2063. As such, comparison of the varying quantitative targets is not straightforward. Themes such as inequality (between and within nations), sustainable management of land ecosystems (desertification, biodiversity and land degradation), responsible consumption and production and urgent climate action are central to the SDGs but are not as fully developed in A2063.

Conversely, A2063 has a strong identity component, emphasizing that the structural transformation needs to be endogenous, integrating the continent and raising the profile of African culture, values, and heritage. It also fosters domestic resource mobilization and has flagship projects focusing on transport, ICT and energy infrastructure. Additionally, the two agendas diverge on Official Development Assistance (ODA)—it is regarded as a needed partnership component in the SDGs but is framed as detrimental for fiscal strength and independence in A2063. This divergence makes sense given the varying timelines: African countries will partially rely on aid to achieve the SDGs by 2030 but should aim to be more independent in the longer-term future. Another key difference is that the SDGs are focused on national ownership and there are no institutional governance milestones, such as governmental body creation (ex: African Charter on Democracy). A2063 includes regional and continental targets in addition to national ones.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) High Fives (Hi5s) exists alongside these two sustainable development agendas. These five priority areas are part of the AfDB 10-year strategy (2013-2022) and are: Light Up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialize Africa, Integrate Africa, and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa.

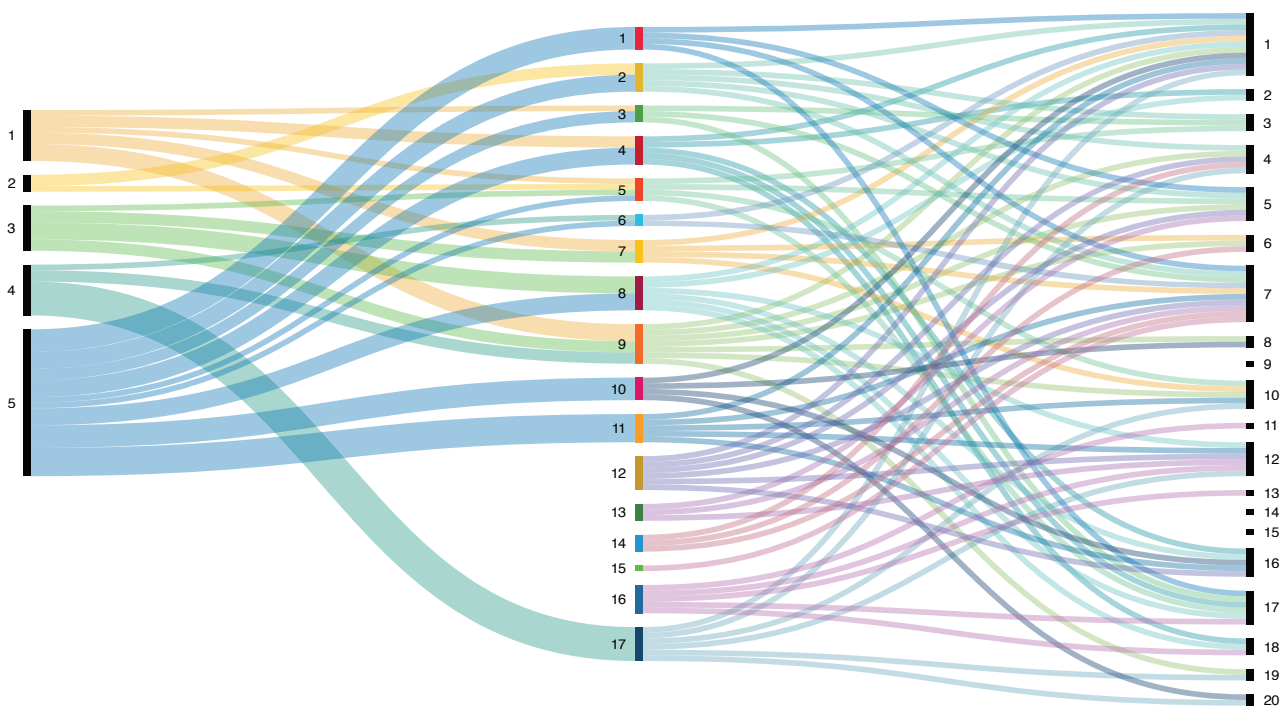
Figure 1 demonstrates the strong linkages between between these three agendas. At the goal level, the global and continental agendas are aligned by 85% with 17 of the 20 A2063 goals overlapping with the SDGs. The three goals in A2063 that do not fully overlap with any of the SDGs are: G9: Key Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions established and functional; G14: A Stable and Peaceful Africa; and G15: A Fully Functional and Operational African Peace and Security Architecture. As Figure 1 shows, at least 15 A2063 goals overlap with at least two SDGs, evidencing a deeper and stronger synergy between the agendas.

In January 2018, the AU and the UN agreed to a shared institutional framework, meant to ensure a harmonized integration of both agendas into member states national plans. Indeed, the SDGs and A2063 are not two standalone

development projects; they are highly aligned and strongly linked. Working towards one agenda means working towards the other. This is fully understood by their lead institutions, and that is why they have put

together a synchronizing framework. Thanks to this coordination, countries are not burdened by two unrelated agendas, but instead can benefit from their synergies and complementarities.

**Figure 1** Linkages between the three agendas



**High Five Goals**

- 1 Light up & power Africa
- 2 Feed Africa
- 3 Industrialize Africa
- 4 Integrate Africa
- 5 Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa

**SDGs**

- 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all at all ages
- 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 6 Ensure availability and sustainability management of water and sanitation for all
- 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
- 11 Make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- 15 Protect, restore & promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, & halt and reverse land degradation & halt biodiversity loss
- 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

**Agenda 2063 Goals**

- 1 A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all
- 2 Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology & innovation
- 3 Healthy and well-nourished citizens
- 4 Transformed economies and job creation
- 5 Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production
- 6 Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth
- 7 Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities
- 8 United Africa (Federal or Confederate)
- 10 World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa
- 11 Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice & the rule of law entrenched
- 12 Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels
- 13 Peace, security and stability are preserved
- 16 African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent
- 17 Full gender equality in all spheres of life
- 18 Engaged and empowered youth and children
- 19 Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence
- 20 Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development



## 2. Africa SDG Index

The 2018 Africa SDG Index ranks 51 African states according to 97 indicators across all 17 SDGs. The SDG Index score signifies a country's position between the worst (0) and best (100) outcomes. Morocco leads the continent with a score of 66.1, meaning that Morocco is about 66.1% of the way to achieving the SDGs, according to the measures used in this Index.

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
1	Morocco	66.1	27	Mauritania	51.2
2	Tunisia	65.9	28	Togo	51.2
3	Mauritius	64.0	29	Mozambique	51.1
4	Algeria	64.0	30	Lesotho	51.0
5	Cabo Verde	63.0	31	Benin	50.9
6	Ghana	62.0	32	Burundi	50.9
7	Egypt	60.9	33	Guinea	50.3
8	Gabon	59.0	34	Gambia	50.2
9	South Africa	59.0	35	Sierra Leone	50.1
10	Saô Tome and Principe	59.0	36	Comoros	49.0
11	Rwanda	57.9	37	Congo	48.6
12	Botswana	57.0	38	Niger	48.4
13	Uganda	56.8	39	Nigeria	48.0
14	Senegal	56.4	40	Djibouti	47.9
15	Côte d'Ivoire	56.3	41	Angola	47.6
16	Kenya	56.2	42	Madagascar	46.7
17	Namibia	56.1	43	Liberia	46.4
18	Zimbabwe	55.0	44	Eritrea	45.0
19	Tanzania	54.7	45	Sudan	44.8
20	Cameroon	53.3	46	Guinea-Bissau	43.0
21	Zambia	52.8	47	Democratic Republic of the Congo	42.8
22	Malawi	52.7	48	Equatorial Guinea	41.6
23	Ethiopia	51.9	49	Chad	40.5
24	eSwatini (fmr. Swaziland)	51.7	50	Somalia	36.2
25	Burkina Faso	51.5	51	Central African Republic	35.8
26	Mali	51.2			

### 3. Africa SDG Dashboard

More than any other region in the world, Africa faces substantial challenges in achieving the SDGs. The 2018 Africa SDG Dashboard presents an analysis of African countries' current situation towards achieving the SDGs. Overall, according to this Dashboard, the goal areas facing the steepest challenges are health (SDG 3), infrastructure (SDG 9), and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), with more than 80% of countries scoring red. Food security and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2), energy access (SDG 7), and marine ecosystems (SDG 14) are also big challenges that need to be prioritized as around 70% of the countries scored red in these areas. For 14 of the 17 goals, not a single African country has achieved green status, according to the Dashboard's system of color-coding. For the remaining three goals, there are only a handful of green countries—climate action (SDG 13) has five greens, and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15) and sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12) have three and two greens, respectively.

However, the continent, composed of 54 countries, is also very heterogeneous. A sub-regional analysis, based on the AfDB classification, allows for a more detailed comparison across countries that share similar geographies, cultures, and economies.

#### North Africa

Northern African countries top the Index rankings and have the highest average index score of 61.6, despite being the only region with not a single green goal. Overall, North Africa has the least number of reds (average of 3.7 per country) and the largest number of yellows (4 per country). Relative to Sub-Saharan Africa, these states perform better on poverty (SDG 1) and energy access (SDG 7). In these countries, gender equality (SDG 5) is still a critical issue with a majority of reds.

#### West Africa

Despite having a considerable number of countries with red scores (8.3 average), this region has the middle average index score of 52. Health (SDG 3) and life below water (SDG 14) are imperative challenges with all countries scoring red. Climate action (SDG 13) is the best performing goal with 87% yellow, followed by inequalities (SDG 10) and life on land (SDG 15) with no reds.

#### East Africa

Despite having the highest economic growth and the largest number of green per region (0.3 per country), East Africa has the second lowest average index score of 50.1 and the second largest number of red goals per country, with an

average of 8.3. Infrastructure (SDG 9) is the main challenge with all countries scoring red, followed by health (SDG 3), and peace and justice (SDG 16) with 92% red. Like in other regions, the best performing goal is climate action (SDG 13), followed by inequality (SDG 10).

#### Central Africa

This region has the lowest average index score of 46 and has the largest number of red goals per country, averaging 9.1. Health (SDG 3) and peace and justice (SDG 16) are the main challenges as all countries scored red. Central Africa occupies a pivotal position in the continent as it shares boundaries with all the other regions, and thus is a keystone in terms of regional integration. Nonetheless, of all five regions, this one scores lowest in partnership and regional integration (SDG 17). Climate action (SDG 13) obtained the highest score with 86% yellow and 14% green; followed by life on land (SDG 15) and inequalities (SDG 10) where no country scored red.

#### Southern Africa

Southern Africa is a diverse region and this heterogeneity is clear in the overall results: the region has the second highest average index score at 54.8 with the second least number of reds (6.75 average per country) and conversely only one green (São Tomé and Príncipe in SDG 12). The main challenge of the region is health (SDG 3) with 92% red. The goals with the best results are education (SDG 4), sustainable cities (SDG 11), climate action (SDG 13) and life on land (SDG 15).

#### Methodological note

The 2018 Africa SDG Index and Dashboards uses the most recent available data that have been aligned as closely as possible with the official SDG indicators. Where substantive gaps remained, we have filled them with SDG-related data from reputable sources. To ensure pertinence to Africa, several methodological changes have been made unique to this report:

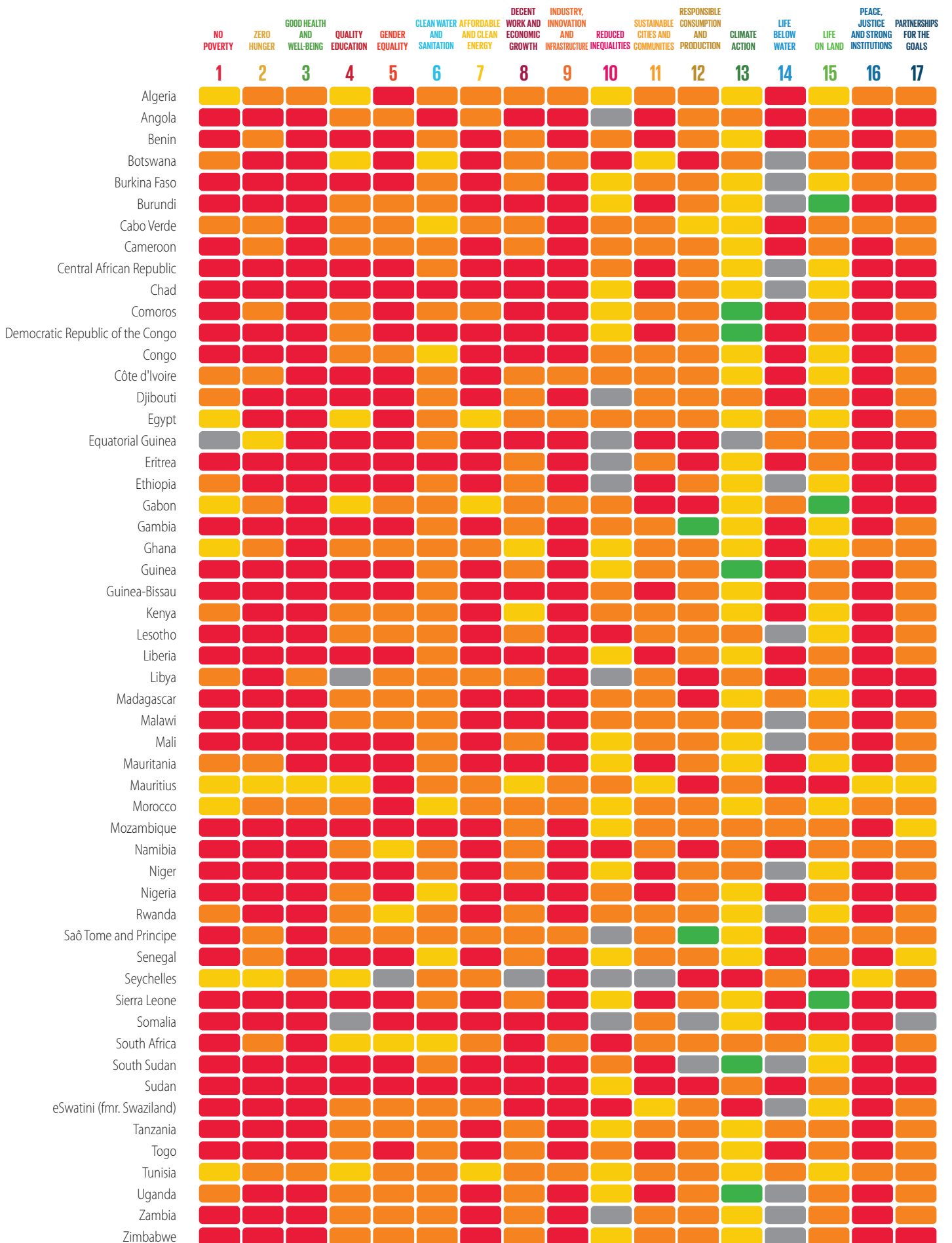
- Additional indicators to fill gaps and to capture issues particular to the African context.
- Revised indicator thresholds to ensure more granularity and differentiation, thereby allowing better benchmarking between African countries.
- For Africa-specific indicators, an average of the top 3 African performers to create the upper bound for normalization.

*As a result of these changes, it is not possible to directly compare the results of the Africa SDG Index and Dashboards with results in the global SDG Index and Dashboards report.*



Table 2

Africa SDG Dashboard



A green rating on the SDG Dashboard denotes SDG achievement, and is assigned to a country on a given SDG only if all the indicators under the goal are rated green. Yellow, orange, and red indicate increasing distance from SDG achievement. For more information on the methodology and data used, please refer to the full report or website [www.africasdgindex.org](http://www.africasdgindex.org)





The SDG Center for Africa is deeply committed to accelerating the implementation of the SDGs across the continent, including developing a new program to help governments build and strengthen capacity on data and statistical systems for reporting on the SDGs.



The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.

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This summary report has been prepared for the launch event at the Africa Union on 19 June 2018.