

ASDR 2025

Africa Sustainable Development Report

Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind, and the African Union's Agenda 2063

Overview of the Findings of the 2025 Africa Sustainable Development Report

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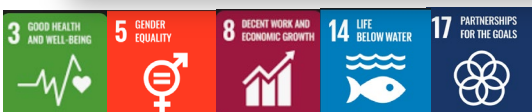
23 July 2025





I. Overview of the Report

II. Focus on SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17 – Africa's Need to Accelerate Progress on the five SDGs





The Africa Sustainable Development Report is a collaboration between ECA, AUC, UNDP and AfDB

- The scope of analysis **is SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 14, SDG 17** and the related Goals of Agenda 2063
- These SDGs are the **focus of the 2025 High Level Political Forum**



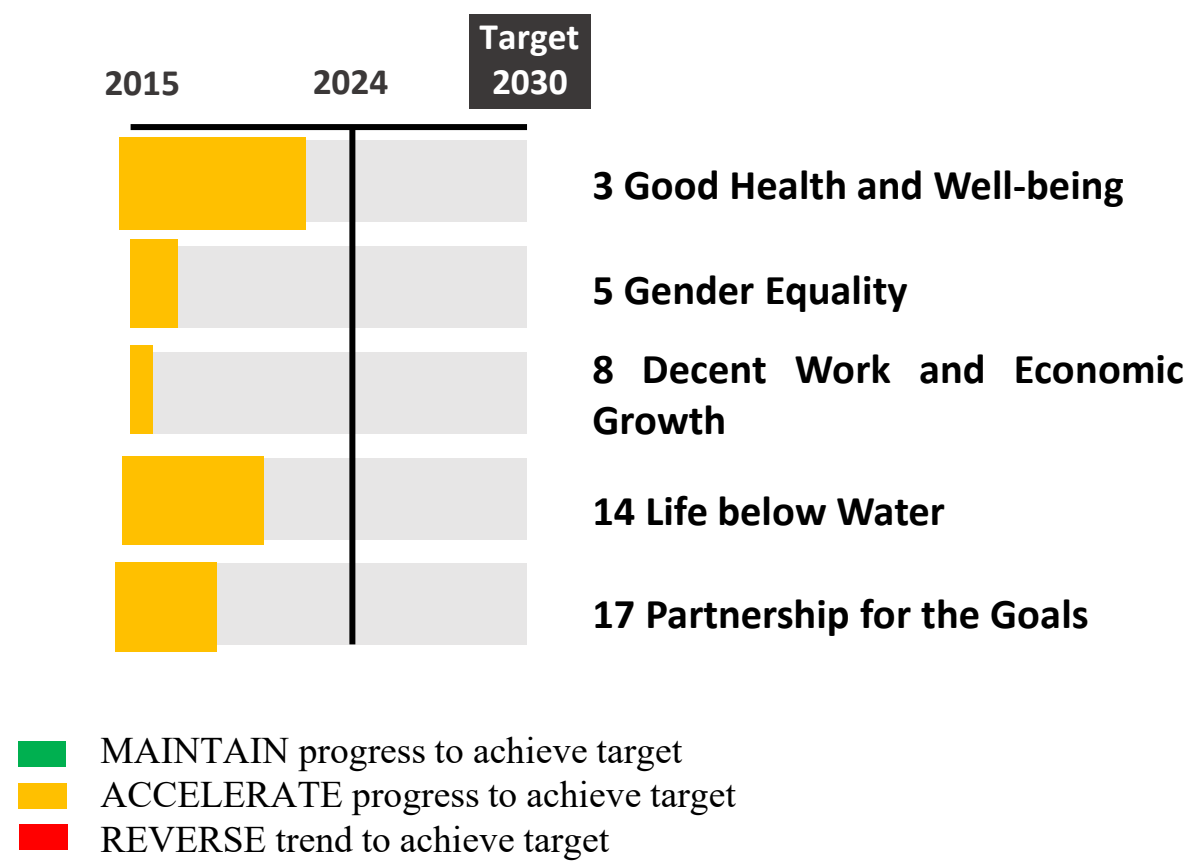
Implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 is occurring in a difficult context

- Excessive debt levels and exorbitant debt servicing costs
- Geopolitical tensions—the tariff war
- Growth without productive jobs—marked by informality
- SDGs financing gap \$670–\$762 billion by 2030



Limited progress in achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063

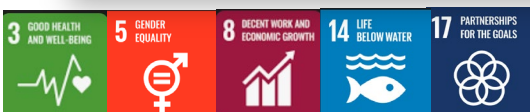
- Africa is making progress on 12 of the 17 SDGs.
- But the current pace of progress is insufficient to achieve the goals by 2030.
- 46 of the 63 targets of the five SDGs are measurable.
- Only two targets are on track to be achieved by 2030. These are targets 14.5 and 17.19.
- Achieving the 17 SDGs is a priority challenge that requires concerted action at the African level.





I. Overview of the Report

II. Focus on SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17 – Africa's Need to Accelerate Progress on the five SDGs



SDG 3 – Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well- being for all at all Ages



Ensure Healthy Lives

Key Performance Indicators

- **Significant improvements observed in health and health outcomes** over the past two decades, **surpassing those of other parts of the world**. However, challenges persist.
- Life expectancy in Africa increased by **19.86%** between 2000 and 2023, exceeding the global average and that of other regions.
- Maternal mortality has decreased by **7.4%** from 2000 to 2020 while the proportion of births attended by skilled personnel has risen from **61.8%** in 2000 to **75.7%** in 2020.
- Significant progress has also been made in the fight against **malaria** and infectious diseases such as **HIV**, and **tuberculosis**.
- Current **public spending on health** amounts to around **7%**, well below the target of **15%** of the national budget.
- **Climate change and other emerging threats** are weakening health systems in Africa, jeopardizing progress towards the 2030 health goals.

South Africa

- **South African National Health Insurance (NHI)**
 - **A path toward universal health coverage:**
 - **Universal access to healthcare** via a centralized fund purchasing public and private services.
 - **Free healthcare** at the point of service for all eligible residents, with no direct payment.
 - **General taxation and progressive contributions** to ensure sustainable coverage.
 - Law signed in May 2024, **deployment in two phases (2023–2028)** toward an integrated healthcare system.

Nigeria

- **Advancing Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria – Strategic policy framework:**
 - **Equitable access to quality care**, without financial hardship.
 - The National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) Act (2022) **makes health insurance compulsory** for all Nigerians.
 - **Commitment to a sustainable and inclusive system**, supported by a coherent national strategy since 2017.
 - The country introduced the **RTS,S malaria vaccine** into its routine immunization program in 2024, targeting children under one year of age.

SDG 5 – Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls



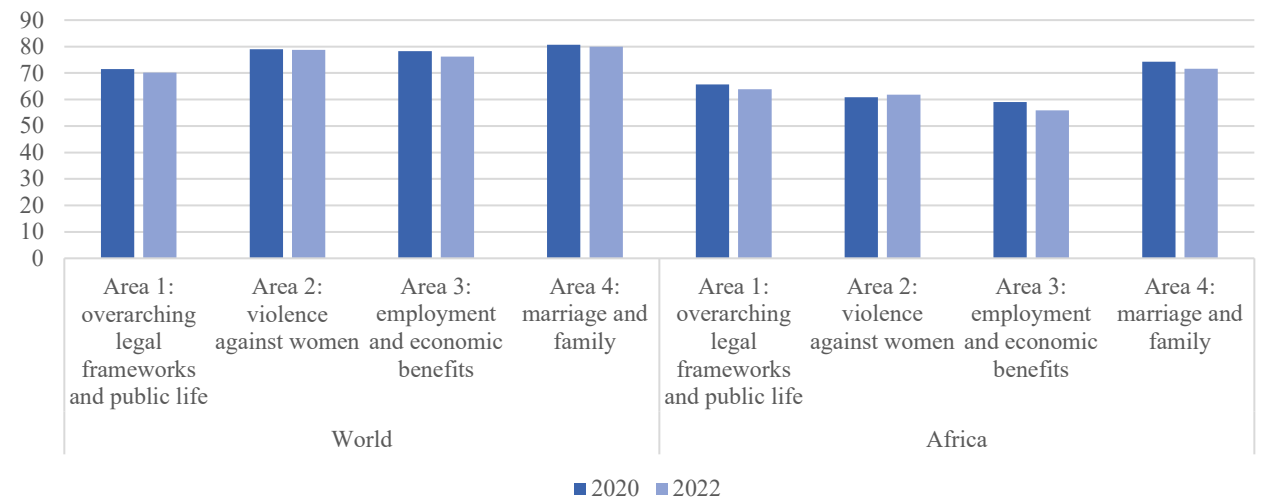
Achieve Gender Equality

Performance indicators

- **Increasing representation in public and private offices over the years.**
 - **32.7%** women representation in managerial positions in 2022, higher than 27% globally.
 - Women held **26%** of parliamentary seats in 2023.
- Women's economic empowerment remains low. In 2022, **68%** of women were in vulnerable employment, compared to **57%** of men, while the gender pay gap persisted.
- Some progress in addressing violence against women, yet in 2023, **24%** of women and girls were victims of violence.

- Average achievement of **63%** across 4 areas in promoting, enforcing and monitoring legal frameworks for gender equality in 2022 (global average of 76%); with achievement for employment and economic benefits being least at **55%.**

Fig 1: Legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality, by area (% of achievement)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (2024)

Achieve Gender Equality

Country Experiences

Morocco

- **Measures have been taken to combat gender discrimination:**
 - The creation of the National Commission for **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** in 2022.
 - **Institutionalization of gender-responsive budgeting** through the 2015 Organic Finance Law, which promotes results-based management that takes gender equality into account.
 - **Adoption in 2021 of Organic Laws 04-21 and 06-21** to strengthen the representation of women in Parliament and local authorities.
 - The launch of the Family Code reform in 2022, focusing on strengthening **women's access to property and control over agricultural land**.

Ghana

- **Women's representation in decision-making positions:**
 - The country **adopted a law on affirmative action in 2024** to strengthen legal frameworks aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.
 - The **proportion of seats held by women** in the national parliament rose from **36 seats (13.1%)** in 2021 to **40 seats (14.5%)** in 2023.
 - The **number of female judges** in the High Court **reached 41%** in 2024, the highest percentage among all categories..

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

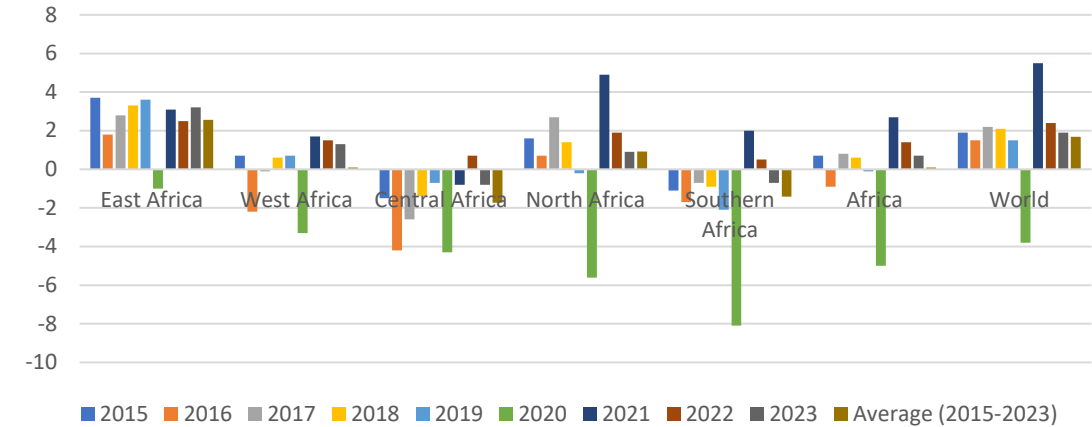


Decent Work and Economic Growth

Performance Indicators

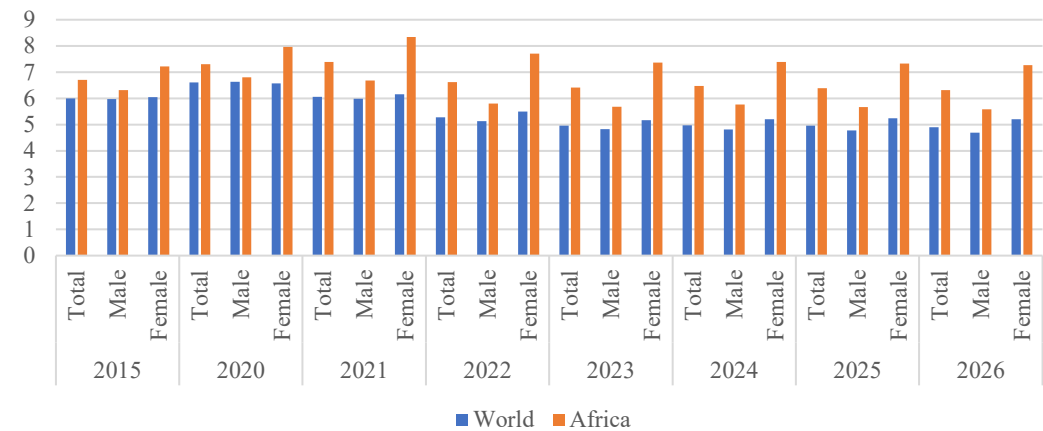
- **12 of the fastest growing economies in 2025**, from 10 in 2024, and generally low unemployment at **6.47%** but higher than global averages of **4.97%** in 2024.
- Low GDP per capita averaging **0.1%** from 2015 to 2023, while global average was **1.69%**, with regional variations.
- Low labour productivity with output per worker projected to be **3.5%** for 2025, below the global average of **3.8%**.
- Informality is high, with **83.1%** of workers in informal employment versus **57.9%** globally.
- Youth unemployment remains a challenge, with youth (ages 15 – 24) not in education, employment or training at **23.29%** in 2024 and largely unchanged since 2015.
- **39%** of people with disabilities were employed versus **56%** without disabilities employed in 2021.

Fig 2: Annual growth rate of real gross domestic product per capita, 2015–2022



Source: ECA Stats (2025)

Fig 3: Unemployment in Africa and the World, 2015–2026 (% of labour force)



Source: ILO, SDG Labour Market Indicators (2024)

Lesotho

- **Accelerating job creation through the “Big Fast Results” approach:**
 - In 2022, with support from the World Bank, Lesotho launched the **CAFI project to strengthen financial inclusion and support for MSMEs** led by women and young people.
 - **Selected entrepreneurs** receive grants, enhanced support, and incubation to help them become attractive to investors.
 - The first cohort of 50 companies began their **incubation** between November 2023 and May 2024.
 - This six-year project, which began in 2022, **aims to incubate 500 businesses by 2028.**

Zimbabwe

- **Promoting decent work and youth employment:**
 - **The BG4YE project**, initiated by the Government of Zimbabwe and supported by the ILO and the World Bank, promotes sustainable entrepreneurship among young people and women.
 - The project supported **1,017 entrepreneurs** and enabled the creation of **2,246 jobs**, more than half of which benefited women.
 - **BG4YE has enabled 80% of the businesses** it supports to diversify and has strengthened the entrepreneurial ecosystem by training institutions and service providers working with young people and women.

SDG 14 – Life Below Water

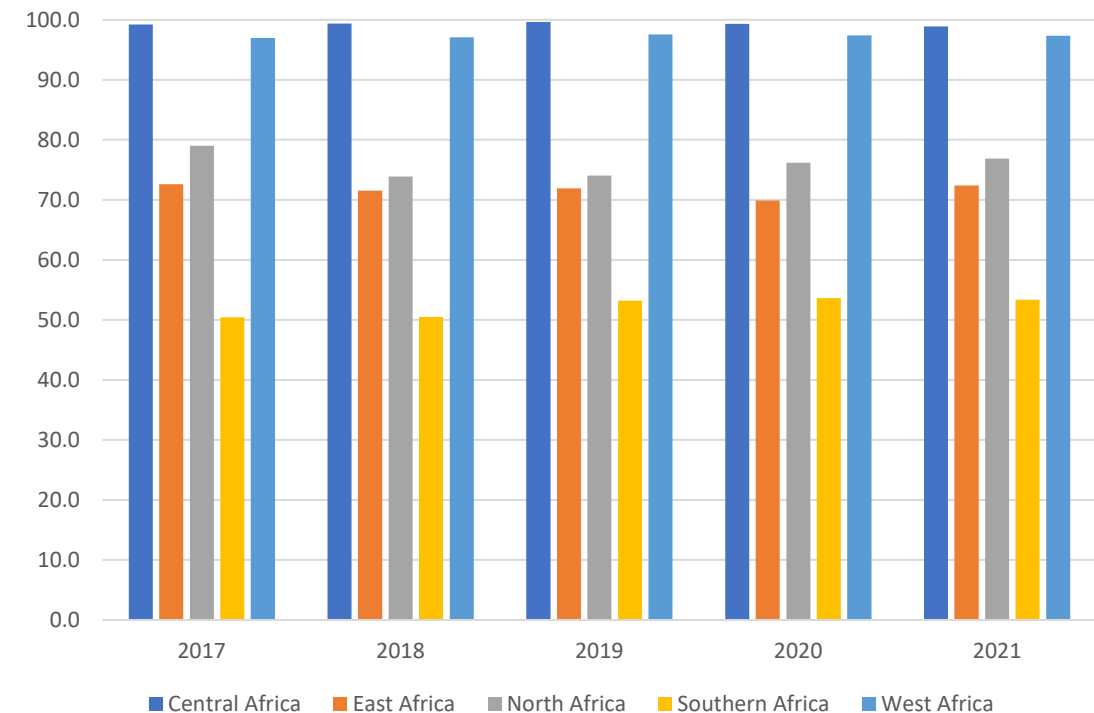


Life below Water

Performance Indicators

- Observed progress in marine biodiversity protection with **46.7%** of key marine biodiversity areas in Africa protected in 2023, slightly above the global average of **45.5%**.
- Increased marine pollution with over **2m tonnes** of litter entering African beaches in 2022, up from **1.7m tonnes** in 2017, with **79%** of beach litter originating from land-based sources.
- Chlorophyll-a deviations, an indicator of ocean health, showed a drop from **4.5%** (2015–2019) to **3.7%** (2020–2022). Improvement could be attributed to temporary reductions in industrial and agricultural activities during COVID.
- Regional cooperation on marine protection remains fragmented and informal but there are some promising initiatives.

Fig 5: Marine waste from land-based sources, percentage, by subregions



Source: SDGs Database, 2024

Egypt

- **Protecting marine life in the Red Sea:**
 - In September 2024, Egypt launched the **Egyptian Red Sea Initiative (ERSI)** to protect coral reefs and support sustainable livelihoods through innovative financing.
 - The country has established a **new Egyptian Coral Reef Fund (ECRF)** to finance sustainable businesses that support conservation, the local economy, and climate resilience.
 - The programme aims to **raise at least \$45 million** through the Fund to strengthen coral reef conservation in the Red Sea.

Morocco

- **Sustainable management of coastal and marine resources:**
 - In May 2022, the country launched a **blue economy program** to stimulate employment and sustainability through maritime spatial planning, with **\$350 million** in support from the World Bank.
 - The country promotes **marine conservation, climate resilience in coastal tourism, and the development of aquaculture** with the support of international institutions.
 - These concerted efforts aim to **strengthen food security and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth of the blue economy**.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for Sustainable Development

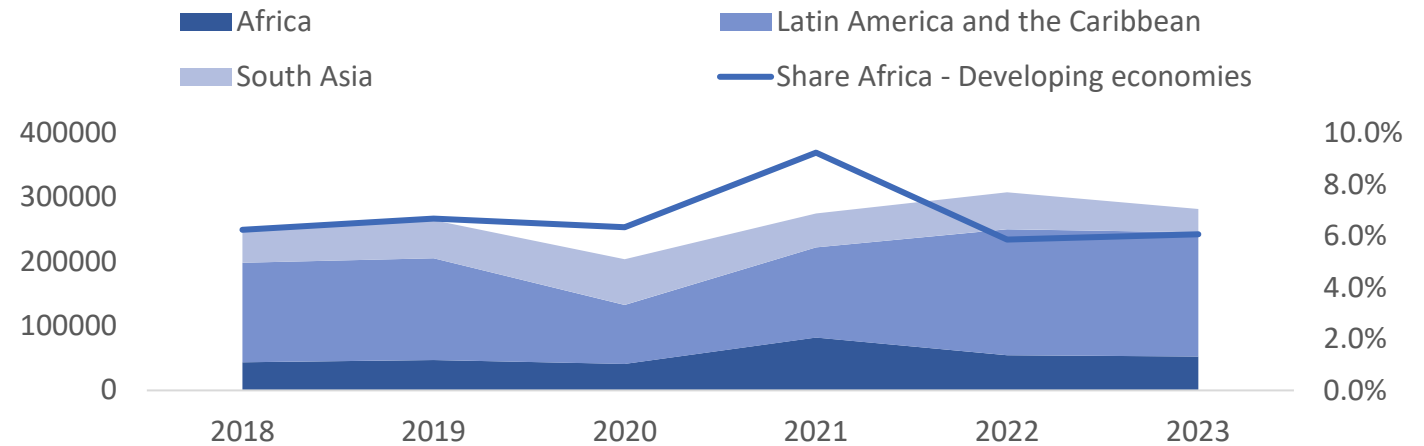


Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Performance Indicators

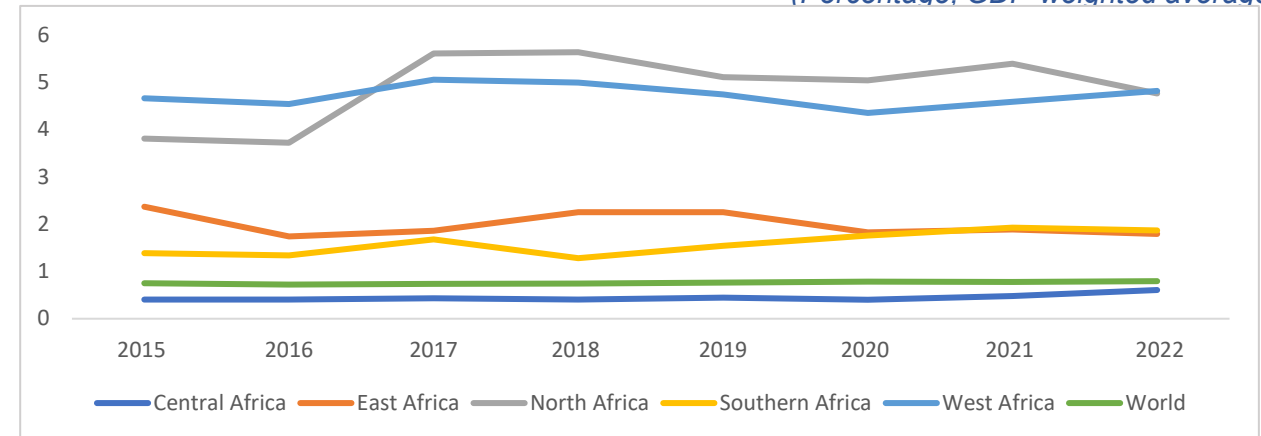
- In 2023, FDI in Africa fell by **3.4%** to USD **52.6 billion**, representing only **6%** of flows to developing countries.
- African countries face constrained fiscal space. Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services increased from **8.3%** in 2015 to **9.6%** in 2022, limiting resources for development investments.
- Remittances accounted for **3.3%** of GDP in 2022, higher than global average of **0.8%**, with West and North Africa receiving greater volumes than other subregions.

Fig 6: FDI flows, by selected region, 2018–2023, (Millions of dollars)



Source: UNCTAD (2024)

Fig 7: Volume of remittances in US dollars as a proportion of total GDP, 2015–2022 (Percentage, GDP-weighted average)



Source: UN DESA (2024)

Burkina Faso

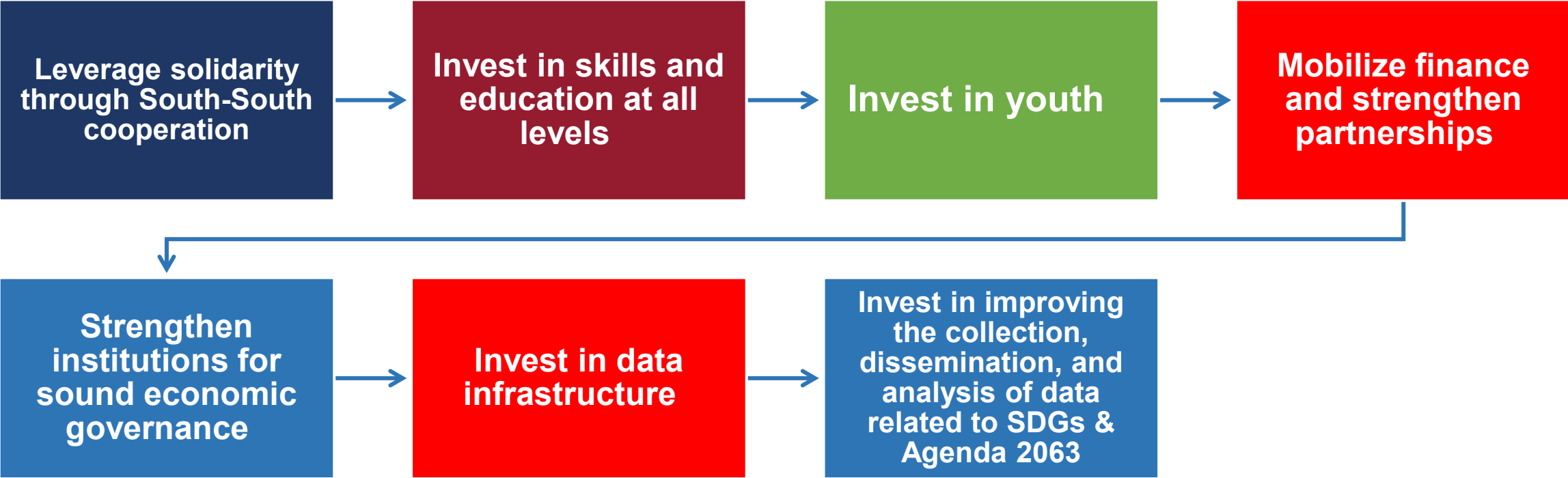
- Implementation of alternative and innovative financing initiatives to support development:
 - Mechanisms such as **PPPs, migrant worker remittances, FDI and climate finance**.
 - Fund transfers from **Burkinabe citizens abroad** are an important source of income for households.
 - As a percentage of GDP, **remittances from migrants** represent an annual average of **2.6%** over the period (2016-2022).
 - As a percentage of GDP, **FDI** represented an annual average of **0.2%** over this period.

Madagascar

- The country has an aid management platform that collects all data relating to ODA, in accordance with the principles of accountability and transparency:
 - The **site is open to the public** for those who wish to study ODA.
 - The country is currently **developing an assessment of development financing** as part of its integrated national financing framework.

Cross-Cutting Policy Recommendations the SDGs and Related Agenda 2063 Goals

To achieve progress in the goals, the following are recommended:



Policy Recommendations for the SDGs and Related Agenda 2063 Goals

To achieve progress in the goals, the following are recommended:



- Enhance health financing investment and efficiency
- Encourage local production of vaccines and essential medical products
- Address the health impacts of climate change
- Improve health data for evidence-based policy and monitoring



- Strengthen laws, policies and services to increase gender mainstreaming and awareness
- Promote gender-responsive data for informed decision making
- Adopt a multistakeholder inclusive approach
- Support unpaid care and domestic work by social service



- Ensure pro-employment macroeconomic and strategic policies
- Promote a strong business environment including through promoting formalization
- Ensure quality youth engagement in the labor market
- Leverage AfCFTA to create jobs

Policy Recommendations for the SDGs and Related Agenda 2063 Goals

2025
Report

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To achieve progress in the goals, the following are recommended:



- Strengthen governance and institutions at different levels
- Ensure public awareness, education and capacity building for different stakeholders
- Support local communities
- Improve data collection and monitoring



- Mobilize resource and ensure economic and financial diversification
- Continuously advocate for the reform of the international financial architecture
- Engage key stakeholders including the private sector, diaspora, civil society



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THANK YOU!

