Development in Africa

The United Nations is helping to transform the agricultural sector of Santo Antão, the westernmost island of Cabo Verde, by moving water to irrigate and create useable farmland.

(Santo Antão, Cabo Verde; January 2023) © UN Photo/Mark Garten

KEY PROGRAMMES

Coordination of global advocacy and support for African Union development initiatives

Regional coordination of and support for African Union development initiatives

Public information and awareness activities for African Union development initiatives

Regional cooperation for economic and social development in Africa

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$109M

$105M regular assessed and $4M voluntary contributions (including Economic Commission for Africa)

SELECT MANDATES

Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda, General Assembly resolution 71/254

A monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development, General Assembly resolution 66/293

Political declaration on Africa's development needs, General Assembly resolution 63/1

Ending conflict in Africa, Security Council resolution 2457 (2019)

New Partnership for Africa's Development, General Assembly resolution 73/335

United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, General Assembly resolution 57/7

Victoria Falls Declaration on the United Nations Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development in Africa, E/HLPF/2020/3/Add.1, annex

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, General Assembly resolution 73/336

Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change, General Assembly resolution 57/300

SELECT ENTITIES

Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

Economic Commission for Africa

Participants at United Nations Headquarters during the first international celebration of World Kiswahili Language Day on 7 July.

(New York; July 2022) © UN Photo/Manuel Elías

CONTEXT

We are now at the midpoint of implementing the 2030 Agenda and have just completed the first 10 years of Agenda 2063 of the African Union. However, the world is off track. Progress is insufficient. The COVID-19 pandemic and the food, energy and financial crises have contributed to a reversal of development gains. Decisive steps are needed to increase Africa's ownership and resilience.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations promotes sustainable development and peace in Africa by supporting the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. We focus on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and on their interlinkages with peace, security and human rights. We also support intraregional integration and cooperation.
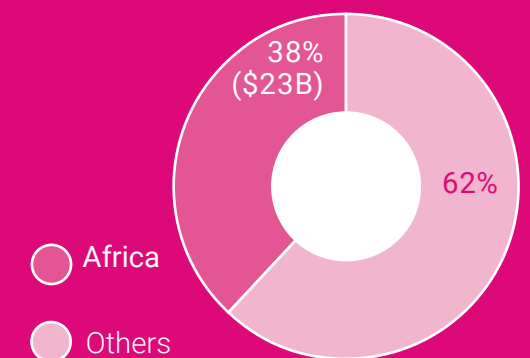
THE UNITED NATIONS IS INVESTED IN AFRICA

73,000+
civilian staff serve in Africa

72,000+
uniformed personnel serve in Africa

35%
of Secretariat staff are from Africa

38% ($23B)

62%

Africa

Others

Share of United Nations system total expenditure in 2021 (including peace operations)

"Investments in strong country systems and institutions (SDGs 16 and 17) are the most effective way for African countries to take the reins of their journeys towards sustainable development and durable peace."

Cristina Isabel Lopes da Silva Monteiro Duarte, Special Adviser on Africa

"Africa, despite the triple crisis, is poised for a post COVID-19 era of structural transformation through industrialization. This will be anchored in the game changing African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement."

Antonio Pedro, Acting Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa

A solar-powered borehole in the village of Daley in Kenya supplies drinking water and helps to irrigate crops.

(Garissa County, Kenya; October 2022) © United Nations/James Ekwam

KEY OUTCOMES

In 2022, we supported African Member States in taking ownership of their development with analytical insights and technical support. We helped to establish control mechanisms for financial flows, enhancing efficiency in public expenditures and creating accessible African private savings and sovereign funds. Our work contributed to improving development finance and reducing dependence on foreign assistance. We amplified calls to shift official development assistance from quantity to quality and advocated for a fairer international financial architecture. We also supported economic transformation and resilience through trade, particularly the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.
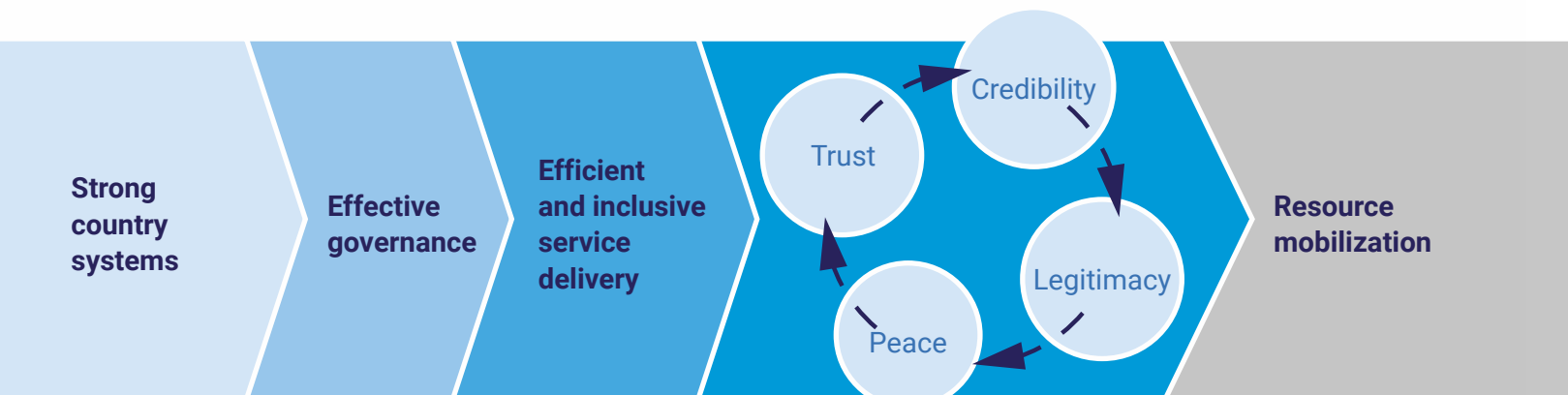
On energy, we advocated for a just and equitable global energy transition that acknowledges different starting points and priorities. African countries want to take charge of their energy future, so we supported energy planning exercises across the continent to advance national priorities.

We continued to address the root causes of conflict through sustainable development that leaves no one behind. We assisted Member States in promoting women's rights and their meaningful participation in all aspects of political, economic and social life. In partnership with Member States, we helped to prioritize the strengthening of health systems in Africa. We also worked towards empowering more African youth as contributors in a shared global future.

Together with the African Union, we directed more global attention to nutrition and food security. With our "Delivering as one" approach, we leveraged the Africa Dialogue Series to explain the issues, activate partnerships and broker knowledge to accelerate Africa's development.

In Cabo Verde, development projects supported by the United Nations are helping to transform the agricultural sector of Santo Antão, the westernmost island of Cabo Verde, by switching from sugarcane to banana and other more sustainable crops.

(Santo Antão, Cabo Verde; January 2023) © UN Photo/Mark Garten

Governance value chain

The absence of the State is a structural problem that undermines the development potential of African countries. The United Nations is working closely with African countries to build strong country systems as the cornerstone of a value chain to deliver sustainable development and durable peace.

Strong country systems → **Effective governance** → **Efficient and inclusive service delivery** → [Trust · Credibility · Legitimacy · Peace] → **Resource mobilization**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE 54 AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Legend:
- ● Major challenges
- ● Significant challenges
- ● Challenges remain
- ● Goal achievement
- ● Insuffient data

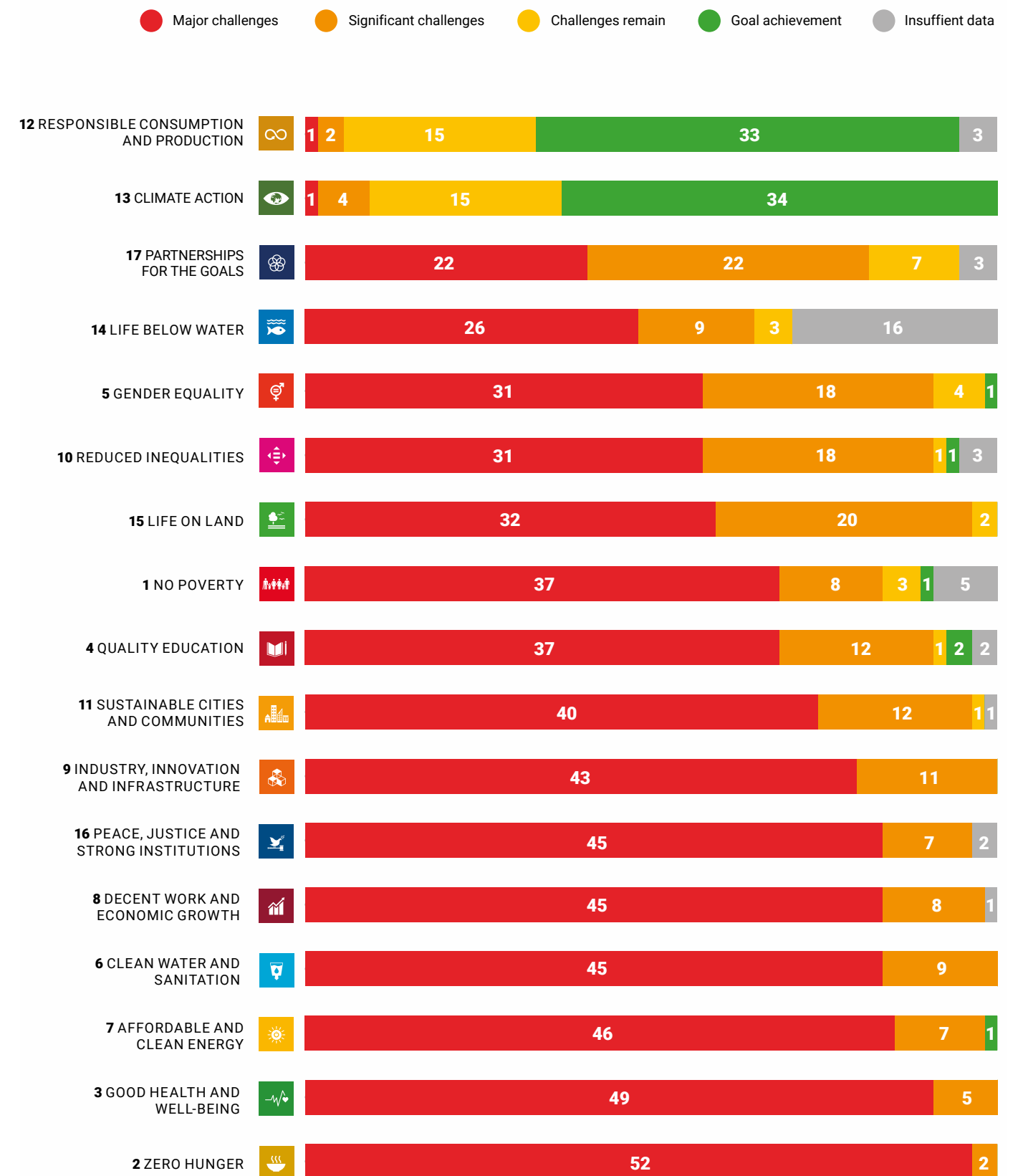| SDG	Major challenges	Significant challenges	Challenges remain	Goal achievement	Insuffient data
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	1	2	15	33	3
13 CLIMATE ACTION	1	4	15	34	
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	22	22	7		3
14 LIFE BELOW WATER	26	9	3		16
5 GENDER EQUALITY	31	18	4	1	
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	31	18	1	1	3
15 LIFE ON LAND	32	20	2		
1 NO POVERTY	37	8	3	1	5
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	37	12	1	2	2
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	40	12	1	1	
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	43	11			
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	45	7			2
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	45	8			1
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	45	9			
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	46	7		1	
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	49	5			
2 ZERO HUNGER	52	2			

Protecting the welfare and rights of children is at the heart of the work of the United Nations to advance the SDGs.

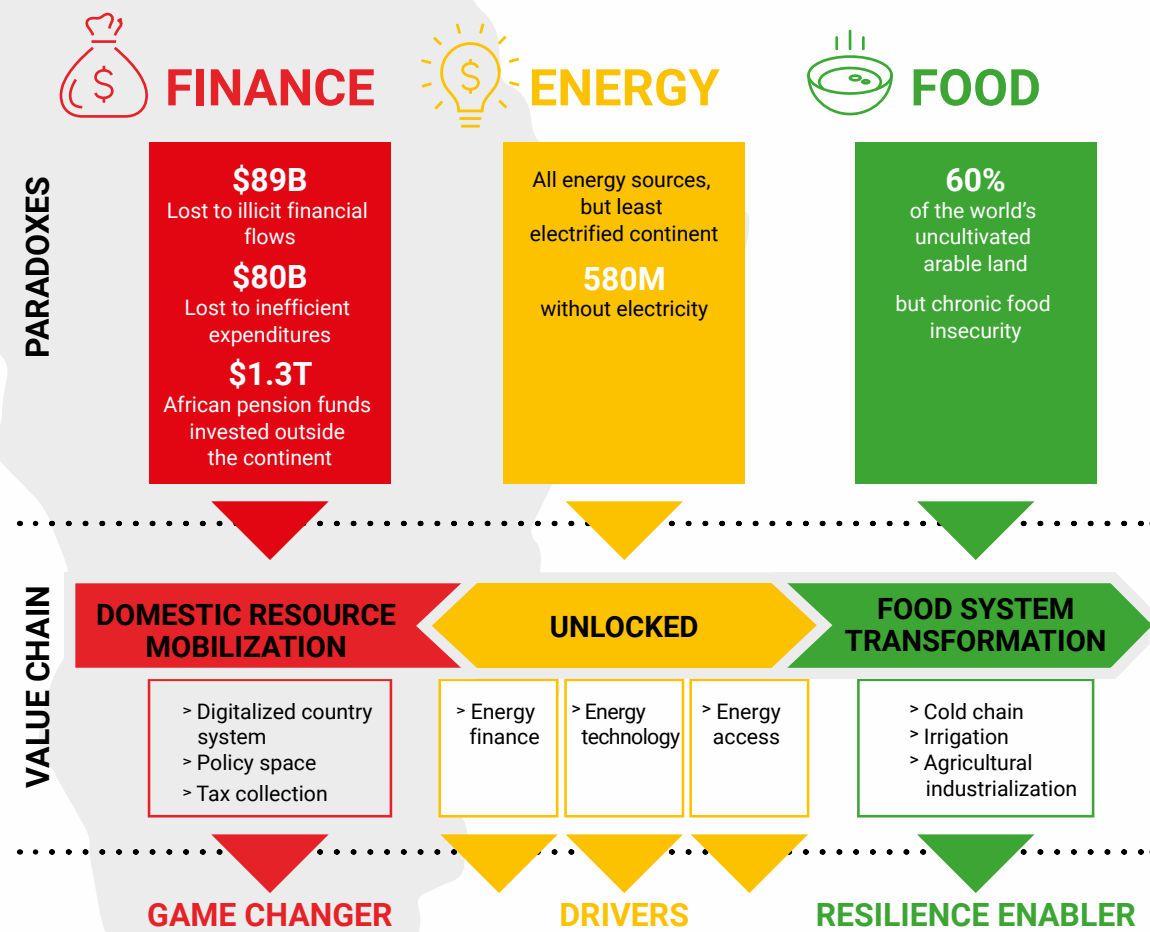(Juba; February 2023) © UN Photo/Gregório Cunha

Unlocking Africa's triple paradox: finance, energy and food

The African continent is rich in finance, energy and food, yet African economies are starved of these resources. We must resolve this paradox and make full use of the continent's resources to drive inclusive sustainable development.

Triple finance, energy and food paradox of Africa

FINANCE

ENERGY

FOOD

PARADOXES

FINANCE	ENERGY	FOOD
$89B Lost to illicit financial flows **$80B** Lost to inefficient expenditures **$1.3T** African pension funds invested outside the continent	All energy sources, but least electrified continent **580M** without electricity	**60%** of the world's uncultivated arable land but chronic food insecurity

VALUE CHAIN

DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION
> Digitalized country system
> Policy space
> Tax collection

UNLOCKED
> Energy finance
> Energy technology
> Energy access

FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION
> Cold chain
> Irrigation
> Agricultural industrialization

GAME CHANGER

DRIVERS

RESILIENCE ENABLER

Young people take part in a radio broadcast to share lessons learned and mobilize action on innovation, clean water and sanitation, affordable energy, and sustainable cities and communities at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

(Niamey; March 2023) © United Nations/ECA