



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

## West Africa Sustainable Development Report 2024

**Accelerating SDGs in West Africa: *Transformative pathways for greater progress***

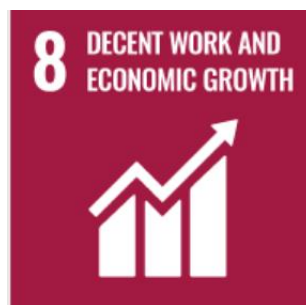
by

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- ❑ Background
- ❑ Methodology
- ❑ Tracking Progress of the SDGs
- ❑ Moving ahead with the Summit of the future:  
perspectives from West Africa.
- ❑ Conclusion and policy intervention

- 2024 is a unique year : Summit of Future (22-23 Sep)-Reaffirm shared commitment to accelerate SDGs
- STYIP of A2063 (2024-2033)
- It is also a time where the world is facing multiple crisis: Conflicts, climate, lingering effects of COVID-19.
- The world is not on track (17 % of targets on track) and 6 percent in West Africa.
- Rallying call for a global rescue plan for the Sustainable Development Goals
- Significant data gap 60 Targets in West Africa could not be measured



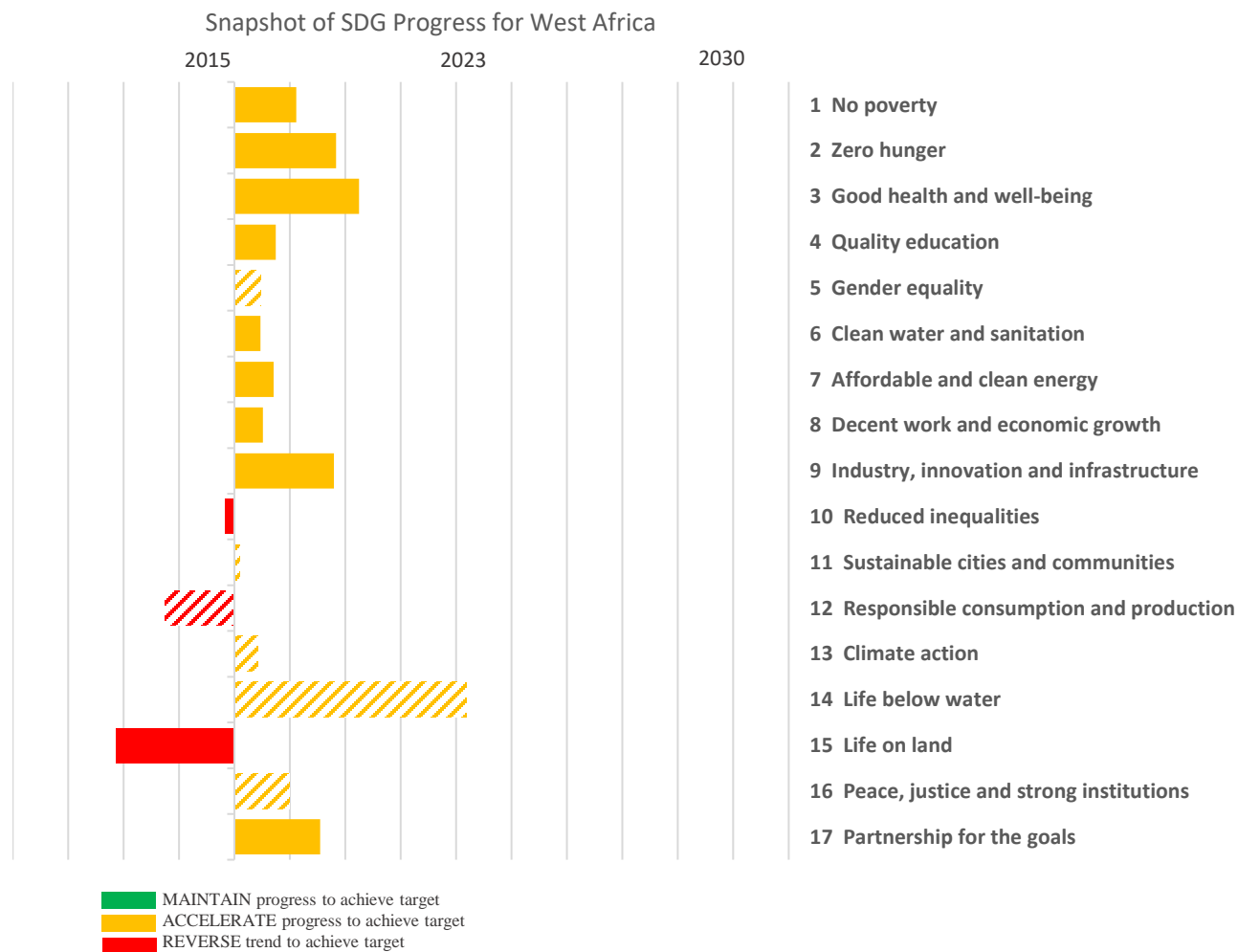
Tracking Progress of 8 selected SDGs : 5 from 2025 HLPF and 3 covering West Africa specific challenges.

. Data collected from Global SDG data base, ECA stat base, best practices collected from country reports.

# Tracking Progress of the SDGs



## Snapshot of progress on SDGs in West Africa (2023)



Yellow	1.1	International poverty
Yellow	1.2	National poverty
Yellow	1.3	Social protection
Yellow	1.4	Access to basic services
Yellow	1.a	Resources for poverty programs
Red	1.5	Resilience to disasters
Gray	1.b	Poverty eradication policies

# End poverty in all its forms everywhere

An assessment of West African countries' progress toward eliminating extreme poverty underscores that **none of the countries are currently on course to meet the 2030 target.**

Some of the countries were showing positive trajectories before the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic such as Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Mali and Senegal.

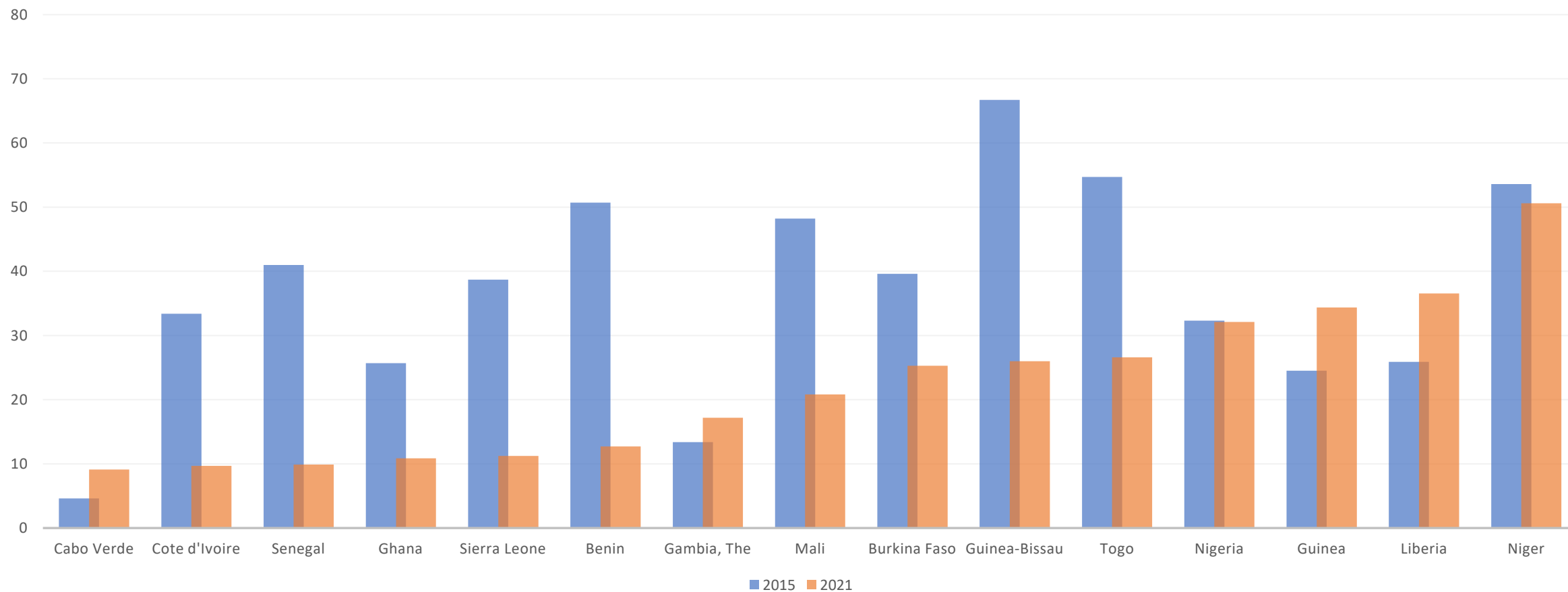
However, these advancements face potential setbacks due to the prolonged repercussions of the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which could result in millions of people sliding back into poverty and enduring ongoing structural insecurity.

**This situation is most dire in the Sahel countries of West Africa and demands heightened attention, accompanied by targeted reforms and policy measures.**



ACCELERATE progress to achieve target
  REVERSE trend to achieve target
  Cannot be measured

## Proportion of population below international poverty line of 2.15 \$US per person/per day (%), 2015 and 2021



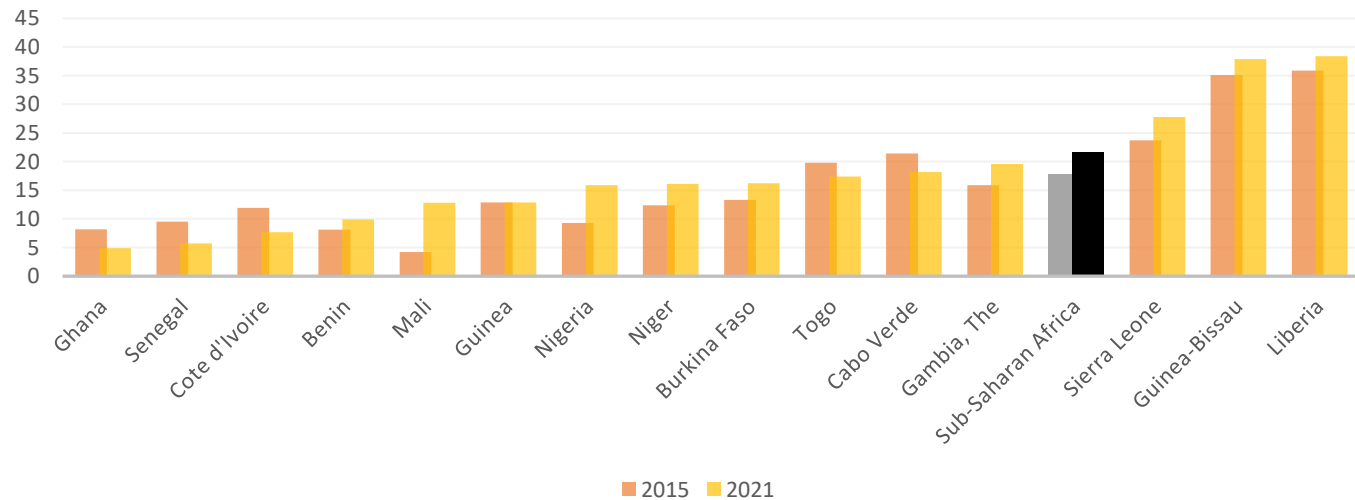


## Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



- 55 million people in West and Central Africa in food insecure in 2024 and more than 3.125 million people displaced in June 2024 in the Sahel
- The rate of undernutrition worsened in 9 of the 15 ECOWAS countries between 2015 and 2021
- External factors like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and geopolitical conflicts present additional obstacles to achieving food security goals in the region.

*Prevalence of undernutrition in the population, percentage*



Yellow	2.2	Malnutrition
Yellow	2.5	Genetic resources for agriculture
Yellow	2.a	Investment in agriculture
Red	2.1	Undernourishment and food security
Gray	2.3	Small-scale food producers
Gray	2.4	Sustainable agriculture
Gray	2.b	Agricultural export subsidies
Gray	2.c	Food price anomalies



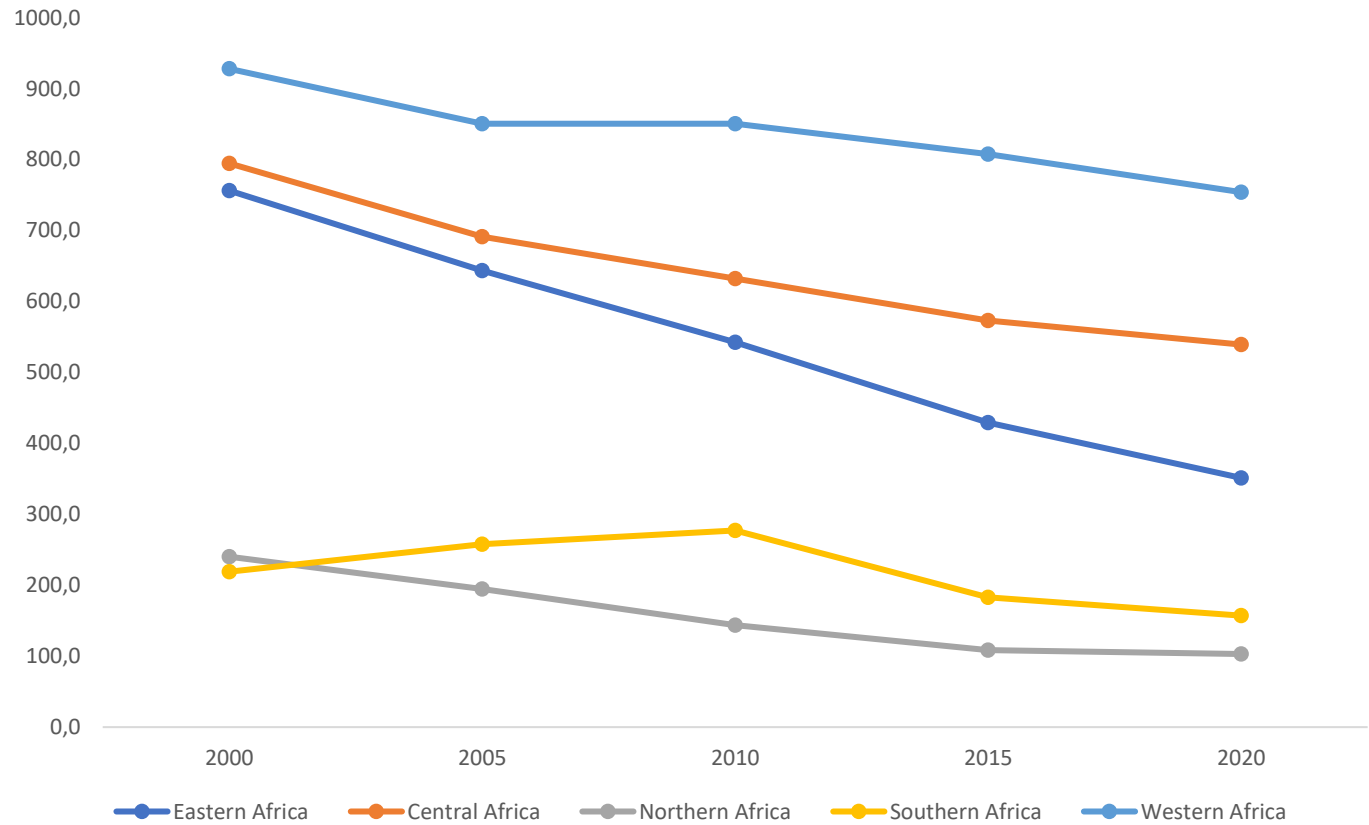


# Goal 3: To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.2 Child mortality
- 3.3 Communicable diseases
- 3.4 NCD & mental health
- 3.5 Substance abuse
- 3.7 Sexual & reproductive health
- 3.8 Universal health coverage
- 3.9 Health impact of pollution
- 3.a Tobacco control
- 3.b R&D for health
- 3.c Health financing & workforce
- 3.d Management of health risks
- 3.6 Road traffic accidents



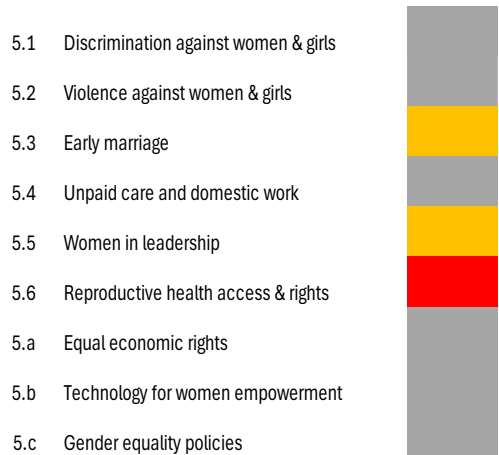
*Maternal Mortality ratio across African Sub-regions 2000-2020*



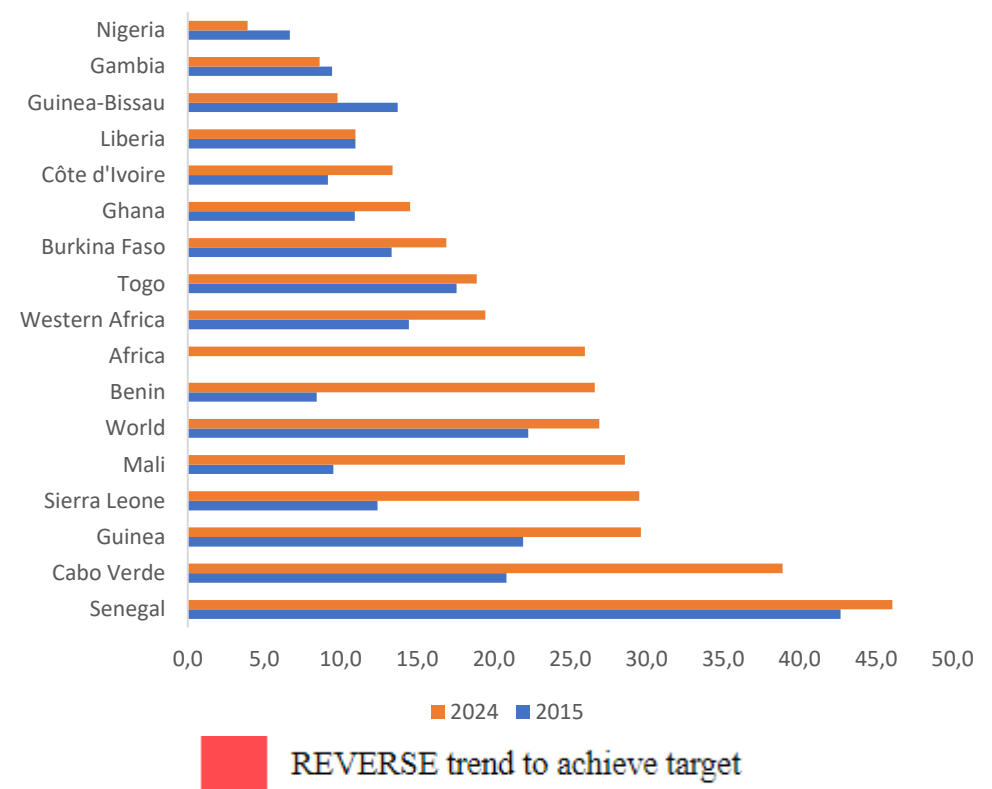


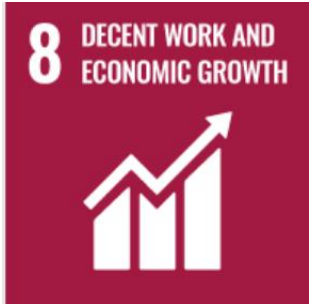
# Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- Women’s representation is key to promoting and speeding up progress on gender equality and empowerment.
- Increasing women's representation in national parliaments in Western Africa, with notable progress in countries like Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali, and Benin.



*Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (% of total number of seats)*

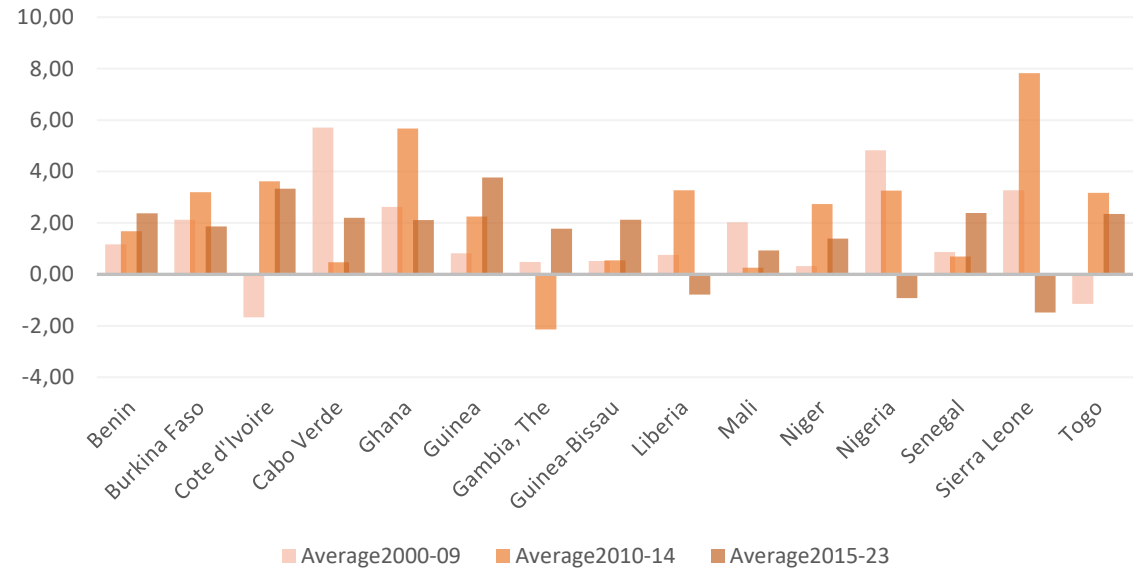


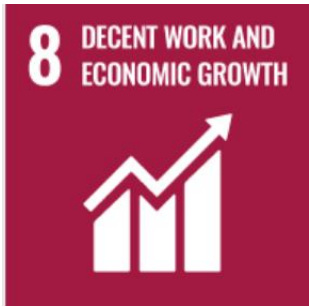


## Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

- All 13 West African countries except Benin and Guinea experienced a decline in economic growth over the last decade.
- Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone recorded negative per capita GDP growth over the same period: Ebola, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the concurrent energy and food crisis.
- No West African country is expected to reach the target of 7.0% of GDP growth in 2030

*GDP per capita growth (average in percentage)*

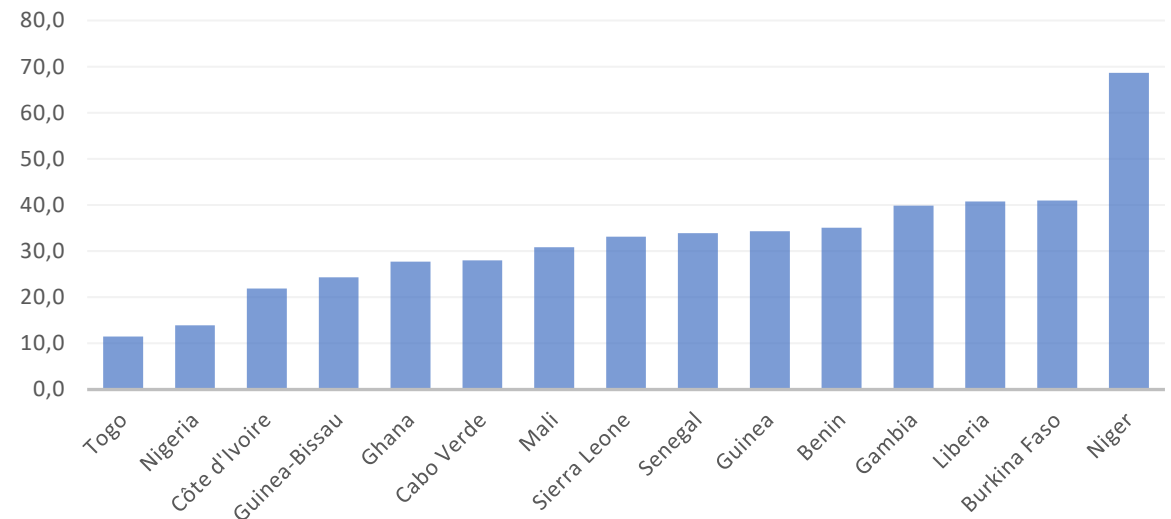




## Goal 8 Ctd....

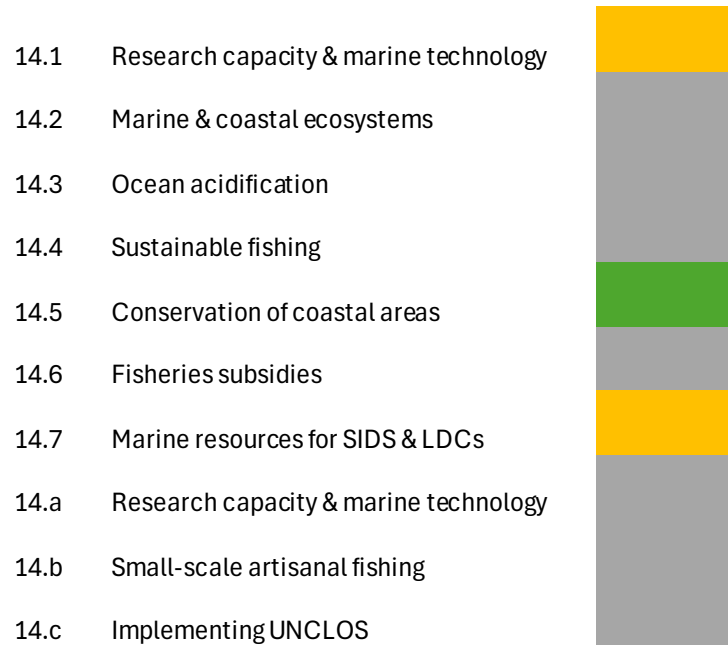
- 64% of the population in West Africa is under the age of 24 .
- on average 33% of young people aged 15-24 are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in West Africa,
- Above 40% in Gambia, Liberia, Burkina Faso and Niger
- Significant human capital gap is due to both the structural challenges related to investment and the emerging challenges such as rising insecurity and violent extremism in the Sahel region


Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training, both sex in percentage, 2018-2023






## Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



 ACCELERATE progress to achieve target

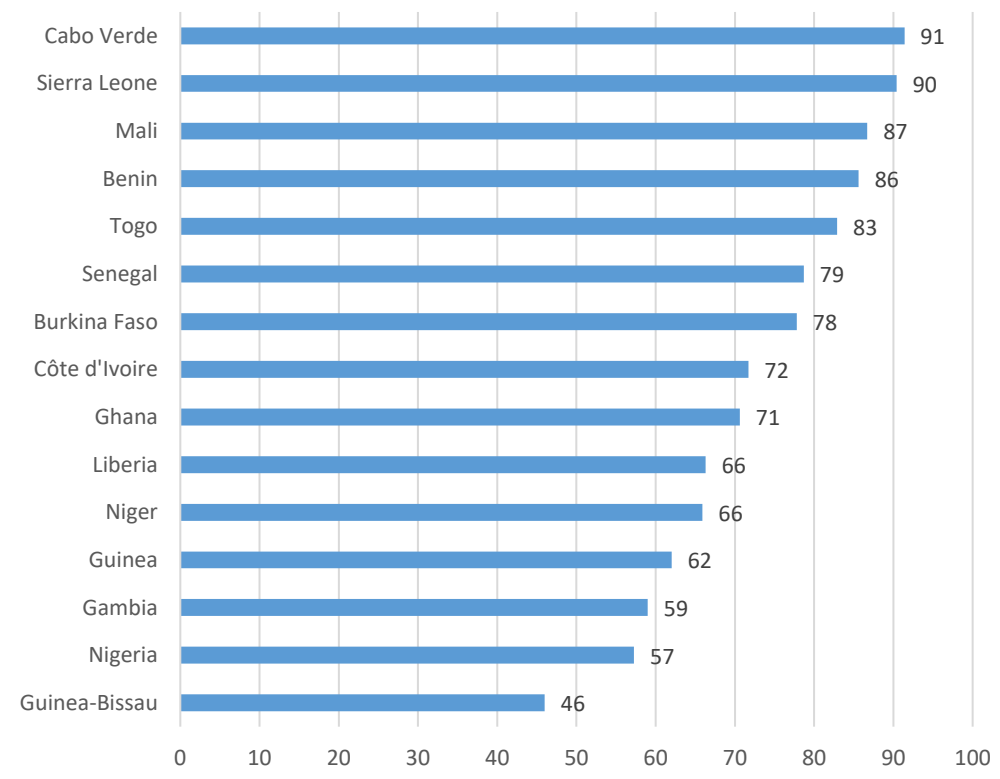
 Cannot be measured

- The subregion faces a continued challenge in combating illegal fishing activities.
- US\$8.3 billion worth of fish harvested in West Africa is estimated to have been spoliated by illegal fishing.
- A lot of efforts are ongoing to fight illegal fishing the subregion
- ECOWAS developed a Blue Economy Strategic Framework with the objective to enable the blue economy to contribute to the sustainable use of the ocean.
- Sierra Leone :scaled up efforts to harness its blue economy potential and developed a Blue Economy Strategy.
- Cabo Verde: developing various financing options to maximize the potential of the nation's blue economy and realize its Ambition 2030 strategic vision, using the instruments supplied by the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) methodology.



Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong institutions

*Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered (2013-2022)*

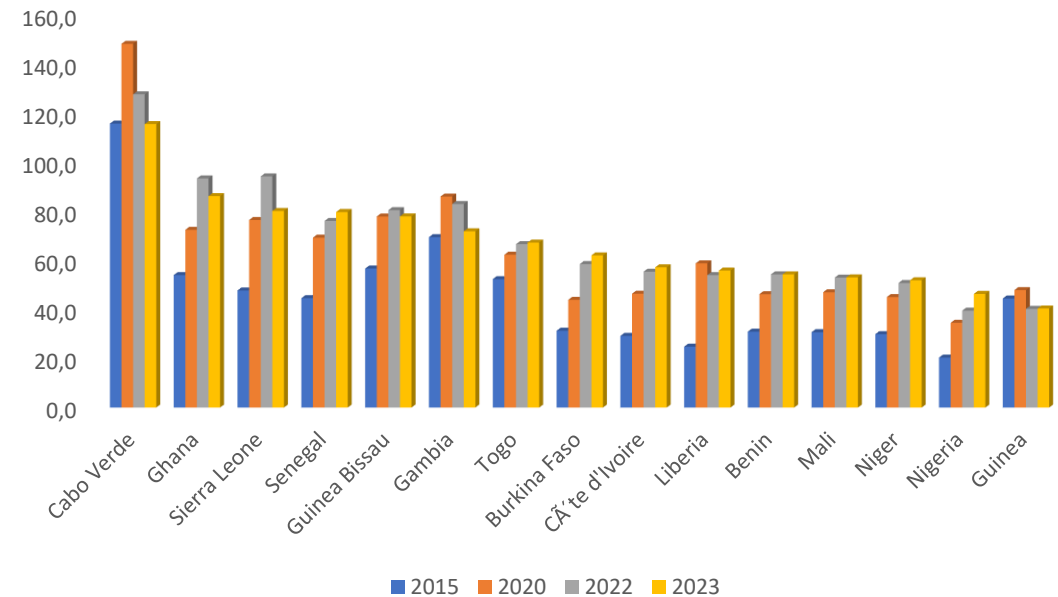


- The increasing Insecurity in the sub-region is threatening peace and social cohesion and severely undermining structural investments and sustainable development efforts
- In 2023, the number of deaths caused by terrorism in the Sahel accounted for 47% of the world total
- 8/15 West African countries have below 75 percent of children under five who were registered by the civil registration authority
- No country in the subregion has universal registration coverage for children under five as of 2022

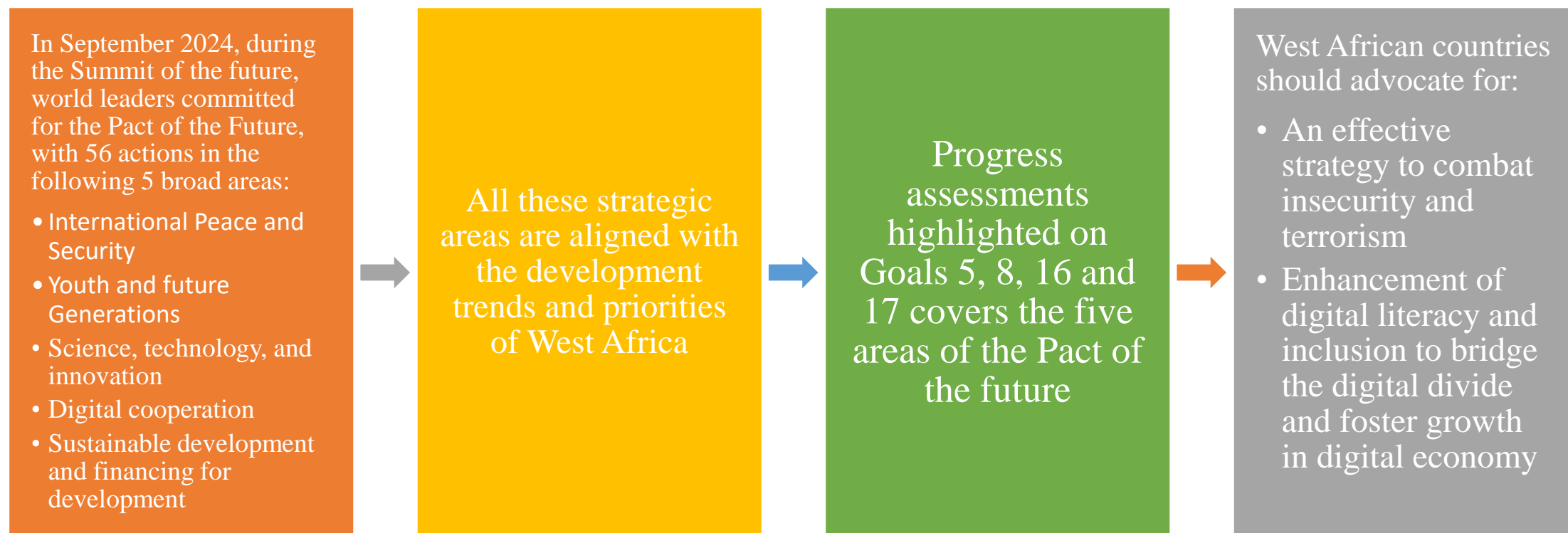
# Goal 17. Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

- Adequate and targeted financing is essential for SDG implementation.
- In all West African countries' government revenue as a percentage of GDP is below the global average of 33.2 in 2022.
- Public debt as share of GDP increased in 13 out of 15 West African countries between 2015 and 2023: driven by widening fiscal deficits due to overlapping crises, slower growth, and exchange rate depreciations.

Public debt as percentage of GDP in West African countries



# Moving Ahead with Summit of the future: Perspectives from West Africa





## Action oriented policies to advance sustainable development in West Africa

Achieving the SDGs requires the right mix of policy responses and an integrated approach that takes into account the interconnected nature of SDGs.

- *Sustainable, Resilient and inclusive Development*: Promoting sustainable and resilient economic development is crucial for SDG progress.
- *Address Food Insecurity through Agricultural Investment*:
- *Targeted Health Interventions*: Intensify efforts to reduce maternal, neonatal, and under-five mortality in high-risk regions like West Africa by improving healthcare infrastructure, increasing access to skilled birth attendants, and enhancing maternal and child health services.
- *Promoting Gender Equality in Leadership*: Continue to advocate for and implement policies that promote women's representation in political and managerial positions.
- *Promoting Peace and Security*: Addressing the root causes of insecurity (poverty, unemployment and social exclusion) is essential for ensuring long-term stability and development
- *Enhanced Data Collection and Monitoring*: to fill data gaps and this can be done by building capacity of NSO to collect timely, reliable and disaggregated data



**THANK YOU!**  
**Merci**

Ideas  
to  
Action