



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Review of the implementation of regional and international development agendas and special initiatives (item 5)

Progress towards SDG 8: achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work in North Africa



Samia MANSOUR HAMOUDA
Economic Affairs Officer, SRO-NA
Economic Commission for Africa

11-13 November 2025
Rabat, Morocco

Content

- I. Global context and SDGs achievement in North Africa in 2024**
- II. Progress towards achieving SDG 8**
- III. Concluding remarks and policy recommendations**

I. Global context and performance on the SDGs index (1)

- Multiple global crises, climate change issues and difficulties in financing development .
- North Africa has performed best among the five subregions in Africa. However, **the score declined in 2025.**
- **Progress varies among countries and across Goals**



Limited progress has been made in achieving some Goals

Table 1: 2024 Average SDG Index Score by Sub-region, Africa

	2025	2024	2023	2022
North Africa	64.8	65.2	65	64
Southern Africa	59.4	59.3	58.3	57.7
West Africa	58	54.5	53.2	55.1
Central Africa	55.2	57.6	57	51.8
Eastern Africa	53.7	53.2	52.6	52.7

Source: SDG Index Database, 2025

I. Global context and performance on the SDGs index (2)

Stagnation in the SDGs index across countries

Table 2: Evolution of SDG Index Score and ranking by country

	SDG Index Score	SDG Index Rank
Algeria	70,1	79
Egypt	68,1	91
Mauritania	57,9	132
Morocco	71,7	68
Sudan	49,1	161
Tunisia	72	66

Source: SDG Index Database, 2025

The variation in scores is relatively modest

Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia achieved a score higher than 66 (two thirds of the total score)

Disparities among countries and each country is facing contextual challenges

Accelerated efforts to address specific gaps and challenges within each country

I. Global context and performance on the SDGs index (3)



Significant challenges remain and progress in attaining the SDGs is still off-track in the subregion, similar trend at the global level.

II. Progress towards achieving SDG 8

1

Poverty reduction (Goal 1)

Reducing inequalities (Goals 5 and 10).

2

Better health, nutritional, and educational outcomes (Goals 3, 4 and 2).

3

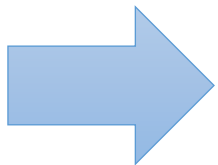
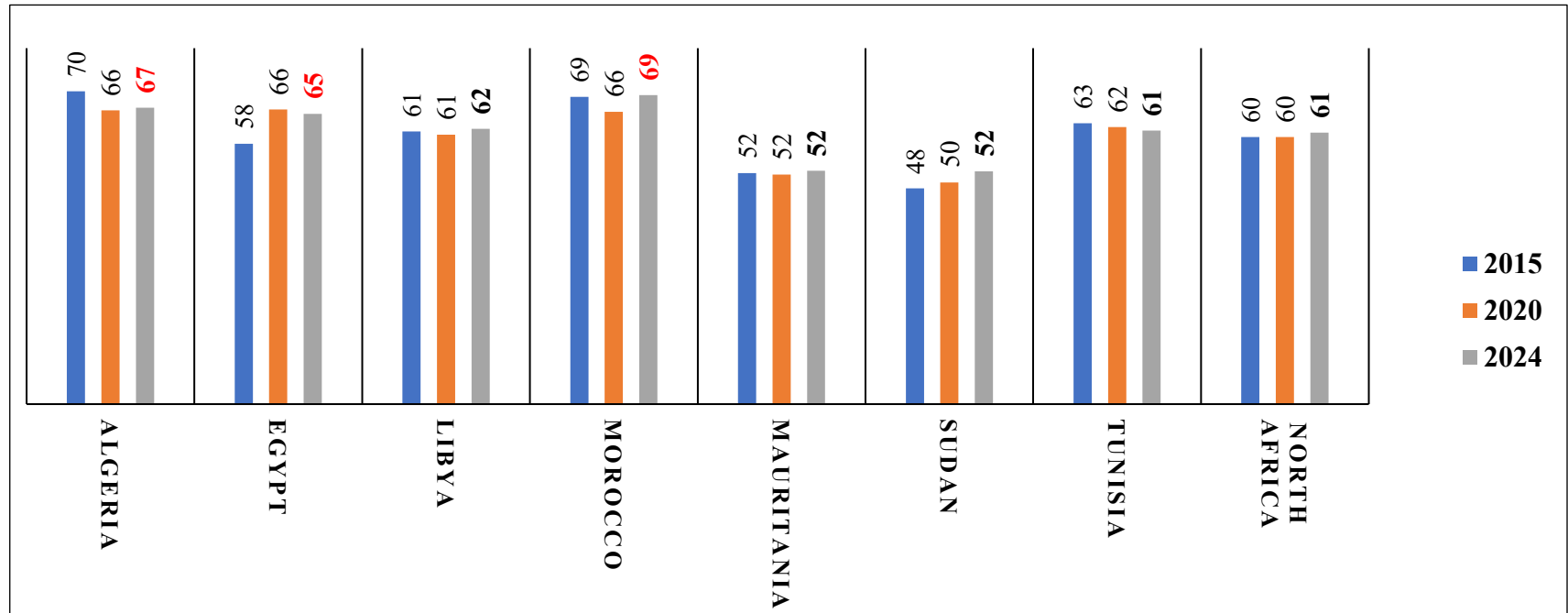
create the foundations for a more peaceful society (Goal 16).

**8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



II. Progress towards achieving SDG 8

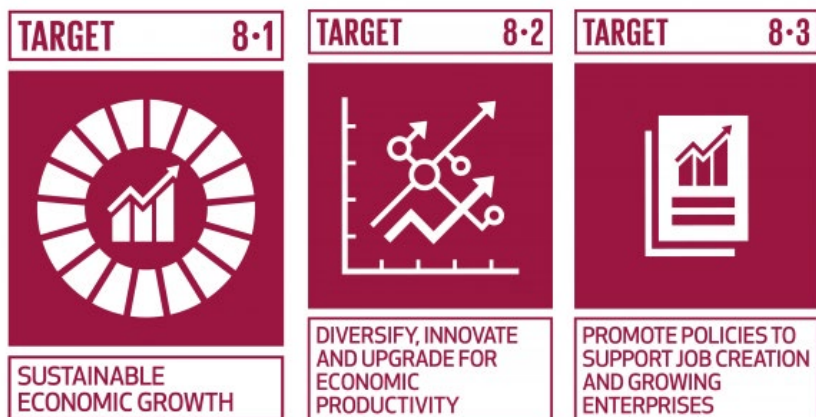
For all seven countries in the subregion, the Goal 8 scores for 2025 are below the global average of 73



Progress made by North African countries in attaining Goal 8 has not met expectations.

II. Progress towards achieving SDG 8

A. Economic growth, technology and economic diversification



- ✓ The average annual GDP per capita growth rate was low in the subregion and by country.
- ✓ Labour force productivity in all North African countries remains lower overall than the global average
- ✓ The informal economy constitutes a significant share of the labour market in North African countries and plays a major role in production.

Table 3: Annual growth rate of output per worker

	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Mauritania	Morocco	Sudan	Tunisia	World
2005	0,3	0,5	8,8	6,3	1,2	3,7	0,7	2,7
2010	1,7	-0,3	1,8	-0,4	2,9	3,7	0,8	3,8
2015	3,3	4,8	-2,2	3,6	3,8	-0,8	1,4	2
2020	2	3	-58,3	-1,9	-3,4	-3,2	-3,6	-1
2025	1,9	2,2	11	1	2,4		0,6	2,2

II. Progress towards achieving SDG 8

B. Full and productive employment and decent work : *high structural unemployment rate and low labour participation*

Indicator 8.5.2. Unemployment rate, by sex and age

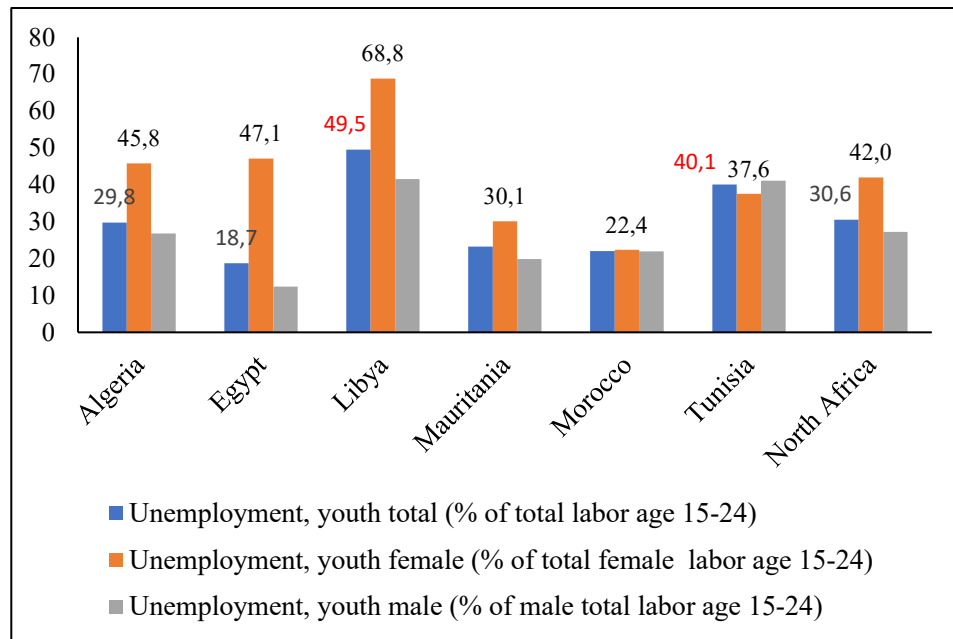
	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Mauritania	Morocco	Sudan	Tunisia	North africa
2010	10,0	8,8	19,2	10,1	9,1	15,2	13,0	12
2015	11,2	13,1	19,6	10,1	9,5	14,5	15,2	13
2023	11,8	7,3	18,7	10,5	9,1	11,4	15,1	12
2024	11,4	7,2	18,6	8,9	10,4	..	16,2	12

Large disparities between men and women in labour market participation in all countries

	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Mauritania	Morocco	Tunisia	North Africa
Unemployment, women	20.8	18	24.8	10.5	15.0	21.9	18.5
Unemployment, men	9.5	4.9	15.5	8.5	8.0	13.8	10
Unemployment, young people (ages 15-24)	29.8	18.7	49.5	22.1	23.2	40.1	30.6

II. Progress towards achieving SDG 8

Indicator 8.6.1. Proportion of young people (aged 15–24) not in education, employment or training



- The rate of young people NEET is high with young women facing a significantly higher rate than young men.
- In 2024, the share of young women NEET was higher than 30% in all countries except Tunisia (20.9%) and reached 63% in the Sudan.

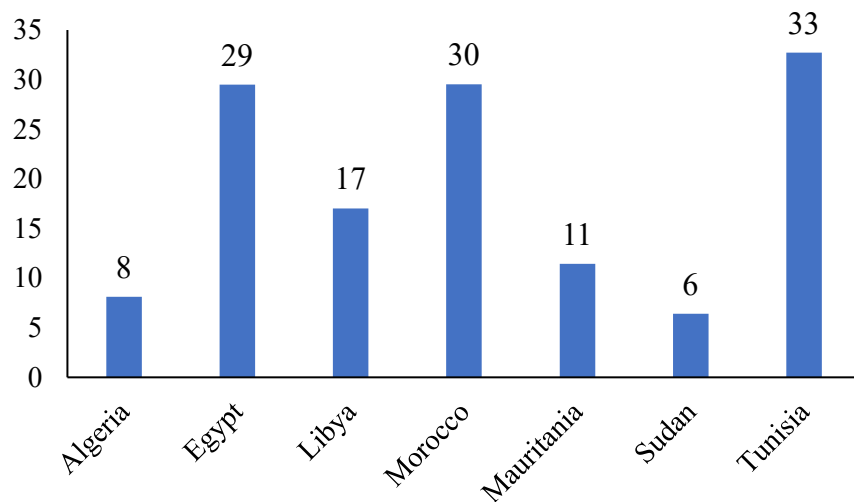


UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO
BANKING, INSURANCE
AND FINANCIAL
SERVICES

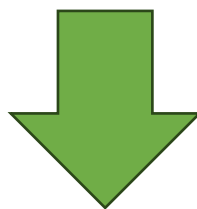
II. Progress towards achieving SDG 8

C. Financial inclusion : Significant progress

Figure : Automated teller machines (per 100,000 adults), 2022



Almost 25% of adults have an account with a formal financial institution with Algeria leading at 44%.



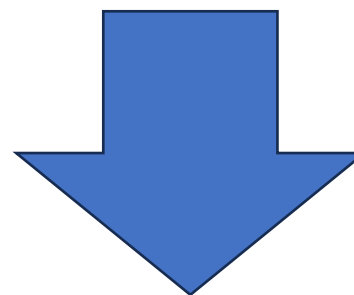
Access to financial services has significantly increased in North African countries. The density of bank branches and automated teller machines and levels of financial access and infrastructure development vary between and within country.

II. Progress towards achieving SDG 8



North African countries are undertaking significant reforms :

- ☐ Develop technical and vocational training to address skills shortages
- ☐ National strategies for youth employment are being developed and various initiatives to tackle youth unemployment are being implemented
- ☐ Development of the tourism sector a significant contributor to GDP and employment
- ☐ Better access to financial services



Overall, North African countries are not on track to achieve Goal 8 and are facing a number of challenges.

III. Concluding remarks and policy recommendations

Policy recommendations to accelerate SDG 8 achievement

Strengthening domestic resource mobilization and leveraging innovative financing to finance projects with high value added

Fostering private sector development and creating more incentives to develop highly productive business environments

Engaging in economic diversification and encouraging public and private sectors to innovate and develop high value-added activities that are climate friendly

IV. Concluding remarks and policy recommendations

Tailoring educational policies and labour market interventions to reduce mismatches and enhance the alignment between skills demand and offer

1



Developing vocational and technical education to reduce the skills gap and increase employment

2



Focusing on research and development, expanding digital literacy and promoting education in the fields of science and technology

3



III. Concluding remarks and policy recommendations



Removing policy distortions and binding regulatory and institutional frameworks to **formalize the informal sector**



Promoting **financial inclusion** through technological innovation.



Implementing the **Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area** for more diversified trade.



THANK YOU !
MERCI !
شكرا !

Ideas
to
Action