United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Water Assessment Programme

Sustainable Development Goals

UN WATER

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Regional Office for Eastern Africa

WATER AS CROSS-CUTTING FACTOR IN THE SDGS UNDER REVIEW AT THE HIGH-LEVEL POLICY FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLPF) 2019 IN AFRICA

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of this paper is to contribute to increasing the understanding of African policy-makers on the central role water plays in achieving the SDGs through facts and case studies of Africa and to serve as a call for action to African decision-makers on the importance of water for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review in the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF). The theme of the latter is set to be 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'. The Goals under consideration are: SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships).

Profound interlinkages exist between all the aforementioned SDGs, with water being the cross-cutting factor. Identifying and understanding these interconnections is of particular importance to set water high on the political agenda and to identify follow-up priority actions that may increase policy coherence and effectiveness in addressing these interlinked issues in a holistic approach at a regional and national scale.

Many African countries are behind when it comes to the different targets of SDG 6, for instance, the access of basic and safe drinking water and sanitation, water scarcity and water use efficiency, disaster risk reduction, the implementation of IWRM including the transboundary dimension. Therefore, this document aims at supporting African policy-makers by providing guidelines on how to make key policy recommendations that effectively address water-related issues when implementing each of the Goals under review. Application of this holistic integrated approach may significantly speed up the achievement of 2030 Agenda objectives.

Acknowledging and investing in stronger links between the SDG 6 on water and the various other water-related SDGs is an efficient and effective strategy for lifting millions of people from poverty and achieving the African Water Vision 2025, the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063.

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1 Regional Paper for deliberations during Side Event at the Fifth African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) on 16th April 2019 at Marrakech, Morocco, organized by UNESCO WWAP, UNECA, UNESCO Regional Office for East Africa and UN-Water.

2 The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The Key messages and policy recommendations for the Africa region are:

Policy Recommendation #1

1a. *The African Union Sirte Declaration committing 5% of National Budgets to the agriculture and water sector must be implemented by all countries from 2020 and a comprehensive assessment of progress made in the implementation of the AWV 2025 undertaken in 2020 and linked to reporting of the SDG 6 Implementation*.

1b. *To ensure improved coherence and effective coordination of water programmes in Africa, the UNECA must revive UN Water/Africa as part of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and mobilize all UN agencies and Regional Institutions (AMCOW, AfDB, ANBO etc) active in the water sector in Africa to contribute to better synergies and effective technical support in implementing the SDGs, AWV and AU Agenda 2063*.

Policy Recommendation #2

No school should be built without basic water services and sanitation facilities with regular maintenance funding as part of its recurrent budget and Hygiene should be (re)introduced as a compulsory and practical subject from kindergarten. This must be part of the Building Code and regular inspection of schools by building and health inspectors must be undertaken to make sure such facilities are not left to decay once occupancy permit has been issued. In especially, semi-urban and rural areas, rainwater harvesting facilities must be integrated wherever possible.

Policy Recommendation #3

Provision of water enables economic growth and well-being and economic growth leads to decent jobs in all sectors. Adequate investment in water resource development and efficient use is therefore a prerequisite for the achievement of all the sustainable development goals.

Policy recommendation #4

4a. In Africa, Gender Inequality in the provision of sanitation services contributes to Income Inequality and Spatial inequality in provision of water services amplifies this for the most vulnerable populations especially in rural areas and urban slums. There is strong need to empower women and their engagement in the decision making, management and use of water resources and sanitation facilities.

4b. *As poor and vulnerable groups (in Africa) are not homogeneous, policies regarding water supply and sanitation need to distinguish between different populations and design specific actions to address each of them. Disaggregated data (with respect to gender, age, income groups, ethnicity, culture, geography, etc.) and social inclusion analyses are key tools in determining which groups are at greatest risk of being 'left behind', and why. When resources are limited, it makes sense to target areas where populations have the least access to services*.

Policy Recommendation #5

5a. *In Africa, Climate Change[3] Impacts are manifested through water (floods and droughts). Adaptation measures to assure resilient communities and reduce human and economic losses requires drastic increases in investment in sustainable water infrastructure and management systems. This is needed in water storage infrastructure for the management of Floods and Vulnerability assessments and early warning systems and mitigation measures for Droughts*.

5b. *African governments and their relevant institutions/partners must invest more human and financial resources in data gathering and analysis on the human and economic losses from disasters (especially floods and droughts) so that they can formulate, plan and budget for adaptation and resilience measures based on hard evidence and thus improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their limited resources.*

Policy Recommendation #6

In Africa, Governments and their partner stakeholders must utilize water as an instrument of regional economic and social integration in which access to water as a human right is affirmed and supported by strong intra-and inter-national basin institutions to assure peace and sustained development.

Policy Recommendation #7

African governments must mobilize new domestic sources of funding, improve the efficiency in the use of existing (internal and external) financial inflows, make water and sanitation investments more attractive for (domestic and foreign) private sector financing and increase the use of technology for data acquisition, monitoring and accountability through effective and inclusive multi-stakeholder processes. These are key prerequisites for Africa to achieve the SDG targets of 2030 Agenda, Africa Water Vision 2025 and the AU Agenda 2063.

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[3] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329248484_Future_Climate_Projections_in_Africa_Where_Are_We_Headed_Investigating_the_Business_of_a_Productive_Resilient_and_Low_Emission_Future

1. BACKGROUND

Africa has a combined[4] population of about 1.2 billion people that is expected to almost double by 2050 and represent about 17.1% of the global population in 2019. Renewable water resources for the whole of Africa[5] amount to about 3 930 km^3, or less than 9% of global renewable resources. Africa's water resources are unevenly distributed, with the six most water-rich countries in Central and Western Africa holding 54% of the continent's total resources and the water-poorest twenty-seven countries holding only 7%.

The majority of Sub-Saharan Africa suffers from economic water scarcity because of the population's lack of the necessary monetary means to utilize adequate sources of water[6]. Out of the two forms of water scarcity (physical and economic), economic scarcity can be addressed quickly and effectively with simple infrastructure to collect rainwater from roofs and dams, but this requires economic resources that many of these areas lack due to an absence of industrial development and widespread poverty.

Availability of water in an area mainly depends on two interlinked factors: rainfall (often highly seasonal) and internal renewable resources. Rainfall replenishes the renewable resources, and if the rains fail, the groundwater stocks and reservoirs are not replenished. This leaves groundwater stocks and reservoirs vulnerable for overexploitation and depletion.

2. AFRICAN WATER VISION 2025 (AWV 2025)[7]

> **Kofi Annan on Africa's green and blue revolution**
>
> **"If we want to accelerate Africa's transformation, then we have to significantly boost our agriculture and fisheries, which together provide livelihoods for roughly two-thirds of all Africans. […] The time has come to unleash Africa's green and blue revolutions. These revolutions will transform the face of our continent for the better. Beyond the valuable jobs and opportunities they will provide, such revolutions will generate a much-needed improvement to Africa's food and nutrition security."**
>
> *Source: Africa Progress Panel (2014, p. 11).*

Policy Recommendation #1

1a. *The African Union Sirte Declaration committing 10% of National Budgets to the agriculture and water sector must be implemented from 2020 by all AU member states and a comprehensive assessment of progress made in the implementation of the AWV 2025 undertaken in 2020 by AMCOW and linked to reporting of the SDG 6 Implementation at the national level.*
1b. *To ensure improved coherence and effective coordination of water programmes in Africa, the UNECA must revive UN Water/Africa as part of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and mobilize all UN agencies and Regional Institutions (AMCOW, AfDB, ANBO etc) active in the water sector in Africa to contribute to better synergies and effective technical support in implementing the SDGs, AWV and AU Agenda 2063.*[8]

This AWV 2025 was developed in a multi-stakeholder process, recognizing the crosscutting nature of water in all facets of development in Africa, and aims at achieving ***"An Africa where there is equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socioeconomic development, regional cooperation and the environment."***

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4 www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/database/index.asp
5 www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/countries_regions/profile_segments/africa-WR_eng.stm
6 www.iwmi.cgiar.org/assessment/files_new/synthesis/Summary_SynthesisBook.pdf
7 repository.uneca.org/bitstream/handle/10855/5488/Bib%20-%2038127.pdf?sequence=5
8 au.int/en/agenda2063

The **main challenges** with the implementation of SDG 6 on water and sanitation will be related to:

- *Improving water governance at the (sub)national and regional leve*l within the context of existing and emerging challenges and strengthening institutional frameworks such as Utilities and Basin Organizations.
- *Sustainable financing* for investments in water infrastructure as well as operation and maintenance to assure sustainability of systems.
- *Developing effective and reliable strategies* for coping and adapting to climate variability and change. In this sense, adapting to climate change and increasing resilience of communities to extreme climate events is the key priority for Africa.
- Developing *effective systems and capacity for research and development* in water and for the collection, assessment, and dissemination of data and information on water resources including their quality and uses for sustainable socio-economic activities.

3. THE LINK BETWEEN SDG 6 AND SDG 4 (quality education)

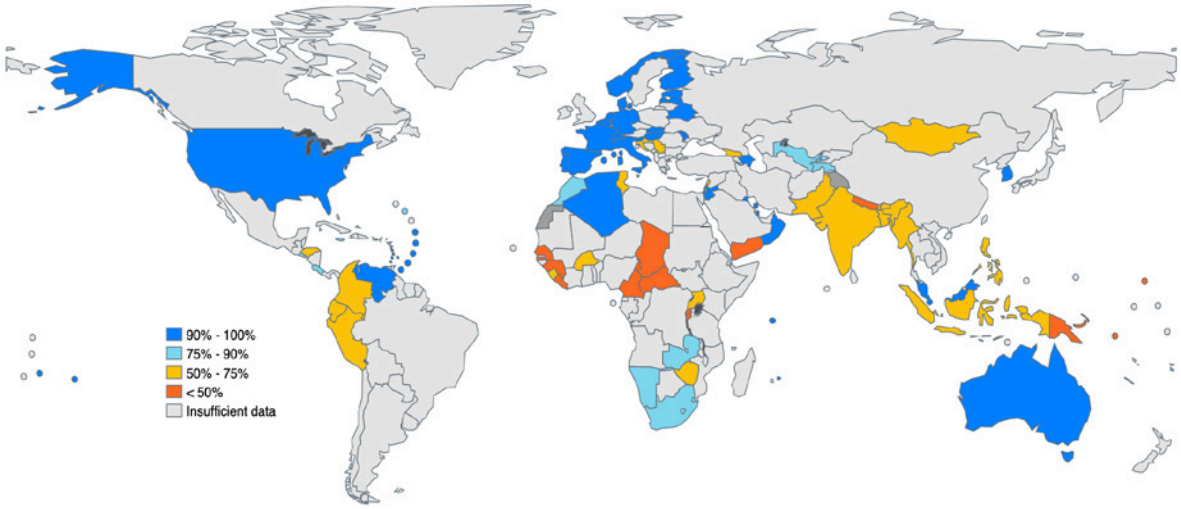
Policy Recommendation #2

No school should be built without basic water services and sanitation facilities with regular maintenance funding as part of its recurrent budget and Hygiene should be (re)introduced as a compulsory and practical subject from kindergarten. This must be part of the Building Code and regular inspection of schools by building and health inspectors must be undertaken to make sure such facilities are not left to decay once occupancy permit has been issued. In especially, semi-urban and rural areas, rainwater harvesting facilities must be integrated wherever possible.

3.1 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) IN SCHOOLS

SDG 4 makes a direct reference to SDG 6 from the point of view that ***"inclusive and equitable quality education cannot be achieved without adequate WASH facilities in schools and education center/premises where pupils, students and adult learners often spend a bigger share of their daily time"***. As recognition of the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene in the education process, SDG 4.a.1 indicator specifically refers to proportion of schools with access to: ***"… (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities[9]."*** (as per the WASH indicator definitions)[10].

Figure 1. World coverage of safe drinking water services in schools in 2016



Source: JMP, 2018. data.unicef.org/resources/wash-in-schools/

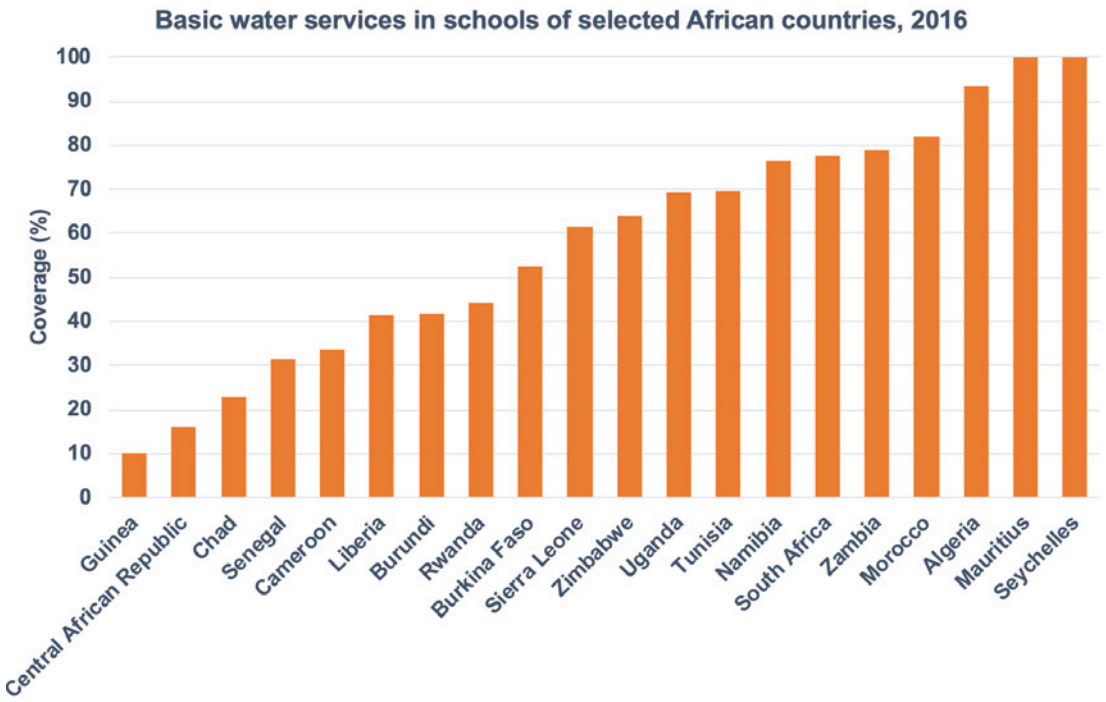
[9] uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/quick-guide-education-indicators-sdg4-2018-en.pdf

[10] www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/coverage/multipurpose-indicator-basic-wash-in-schools.pdf

The map shows that many of reporting countries in Africa with less than 50% of schools with basic drinking services. According to the JMP (2018) based on available data, 53% of schools had only limited water coverage, 53% had basic sanitation coverage and 21% had basic hygiene facilities. Figures 2 and 3 below show country data compiled from the EMDAT database.

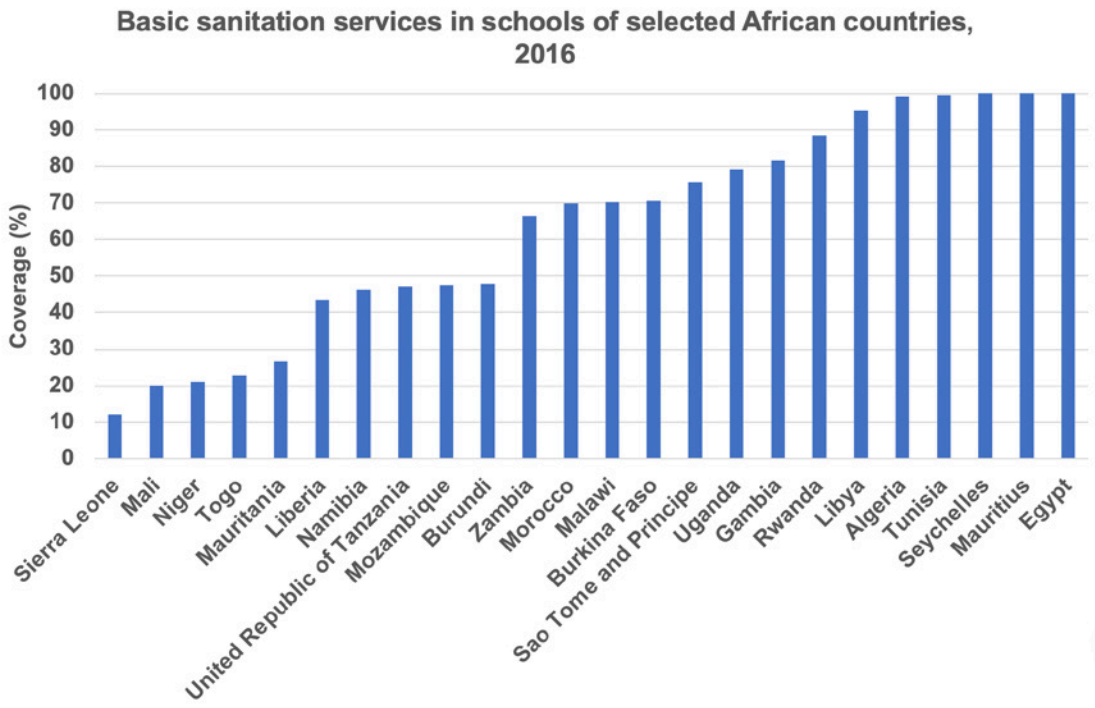
Figures 2 and 3. Share of schools with (at least) basic water services and sanitation in Africa

Basic water services:



Source: data.unicef.org/resources/wash-in-schools/

Basic sanitation services:



Source: data.unicef.org/resources/wash-in-schools/

8 out of 20 African countries reporting had basic water coverage in school of less than 50%. Coverage of schools with basic water services was about or less than 20% in countries as Guinea and CAR and Chad. The majority of schools had access to basic water services in Uganda and some countries in Southern Africa and Northern Africa. Except of Tunisia, most of North African countries have almost full coverage with basic water services in schools. 10 Out of 24 African countries reporting had less than 50% of schools that had access to basic sanitation in 2016. 3 North African countries (Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt) and 2 small island countries (Mauritius and Seychelles) had almost full coverage of schools with basic sanitation services. The remaining 9 countries had a coverage of schools with basic sanitation in a range from 60 to 90%. Menstrual Hygiene Management is one of the key prerequisites to avoid missing school days and early drop-out from girls coming into puberty and this must be included in all sanitation planning for schools.

4 THE LINK BETWEEN SDG 6 AND SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)

Policy Recommendation #3

Provision of water enables economic growth and well-being and economic growth leads to decent jobs in all sectors. It is recommended that all African governments and their development partners allocate adequate investment in water resource development and efficient use in their national development plans since it is a prerequisite for the achievement of SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

Africa's economies mainly consist of agriculture and natural resources extraction and are highly dependent on water. Looking at SDG 8, it is evident that water is linked to the availability of decent jobs through its impact on economic growth. African economies need good quality, sufficient and accessible water for agriculture, but also, to transform their economies beyond primary production of raw materials. There is need of sufficient and accessible energy for value addition across agricultural and natural resources extractives value chains. Hydropower is a big source of this energy and several countries are looking at doubling their electricity generation capacity which is mainly from hydropower. If well harnessed and managed, African water resources can generate sufficient power to drive its countries' economies and hence provide decent jobs.

Some 1.2 billion jobs, or 40 per cent of total world employment, most of which are in Africa and Asia and the Pacific, depend directly on ecosystem services. In Africa[11], 23000 of these jobs are directly dependent on water through: freshwater supply, recycling, regulation, purification and natural hazard regulation. Environmental degradation threatens water-related ecosystems, the services they provide and therefore also the jobs that depend on them with the most acute consequences for the most vulnerable workers (from lower-income countries, rural workers, people in poverty, indigenous and tribal peoples and other disadvantaged groups).

Aside from the currently most water-dependent sector of agriculture, other highly water-dependent sectors are fisheries and manufacturing industries. It may be noted that across Sub-Saharan Africa, the share of withdrawals for industrial applications amounts to less than 2 percent. Figure 4 shows the indicative job distribution for the various sectors in Africa (UNESCO WWAP, 2016).

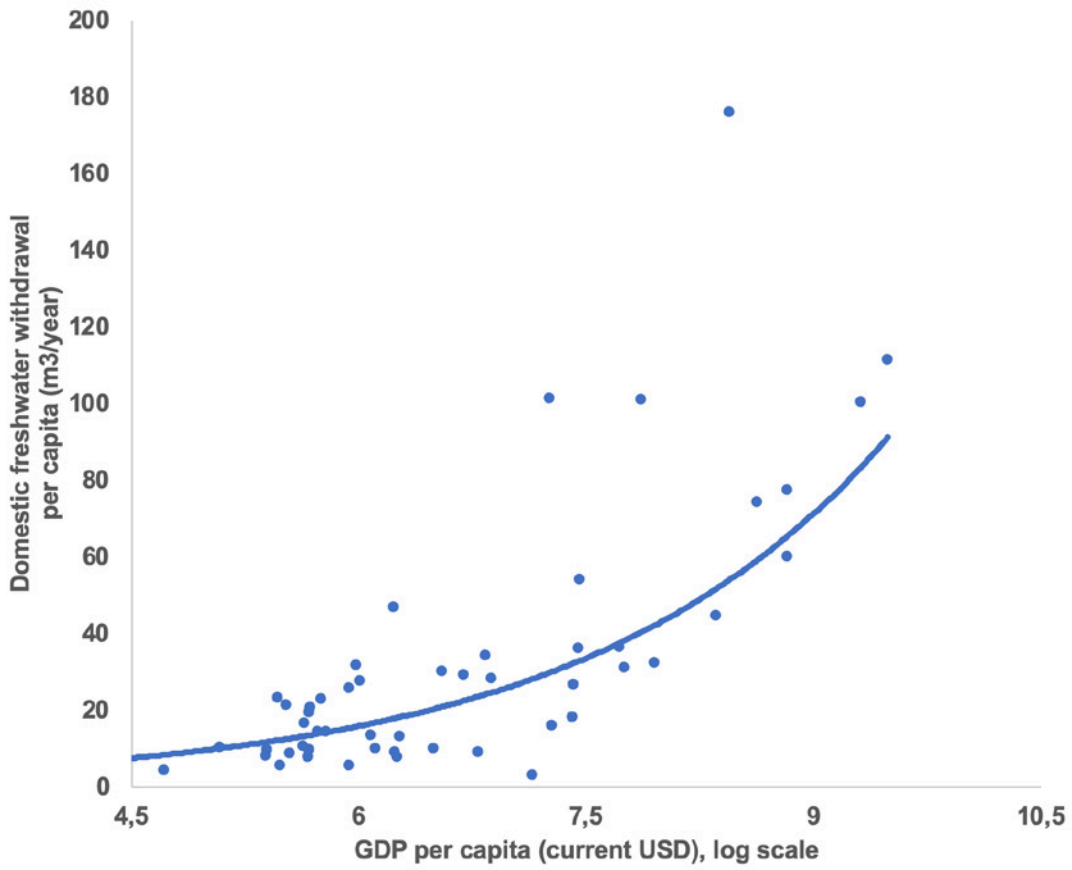
Fresh water withdrawal per capita tends to increase with increasing GDP per capita (figure 5). In line with the expected economic growth of many African economies, a surge in water demand and use is expected. It has been estimated that by 2025, up to 16% of Africa's population (230 million) will be living in countries facing water scarcity, and 32% (460 million) in water-stressed countries (Johns Hopkins, 1998).

[11] www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_628654.pdf

Figure 4. **Indicative job distribution of various sectors in Africa (millions of jobs, 2010)**

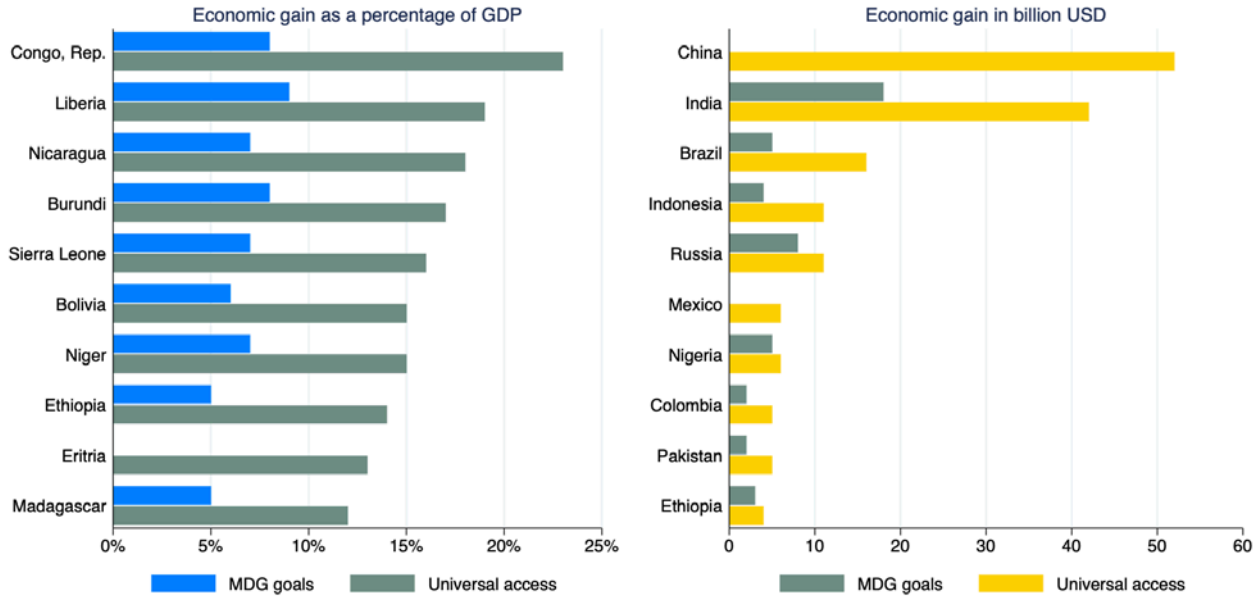
Source: McKinsey Global Institute (2012, Exhibit E2, p4)

Figure 5. **Domestic water withdrawal and GDP per capita in Africa**



Source: data.worldbank.org/

Figure 6. Economic Gains in GDP from achieving Universal Access to Water and Sanitation



Source: Exploring the links between water and economic growth. A report prepared for HSBC by Frontier Economics: Executive Summary 2012

The economic benefits from improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation can be considerable as shown in figure 6. The figure on the left shows economic gain as a percentage of GDP for the achievement of MDG 7 for Water and Sanitation and the equivalent percentage gain in GDP for universal access for improved access to water services and basic sanitation. It covers 10 countries of which 2 are in Latin America and 8 are in Africa. The percentage gains in GDP with universal access range from 23% in DR Congo to 12 % in Madagascar. This increase averages about 15% of annual GDP for universal access as targeted in the SDG 6. In the figure on the right, the economic gain is expressed in billions of US dollars for 10 major countries including the two most populous countries in Africa (Nigeria and Ethiopia). Nigeria will gain about 7 billion dollars and Ethiopia about 5 billion dollars annually.

5 THE LINK BETWEEN SDG 6 AND SDG 10 (reduction of inequality)

Policy recommendation #4

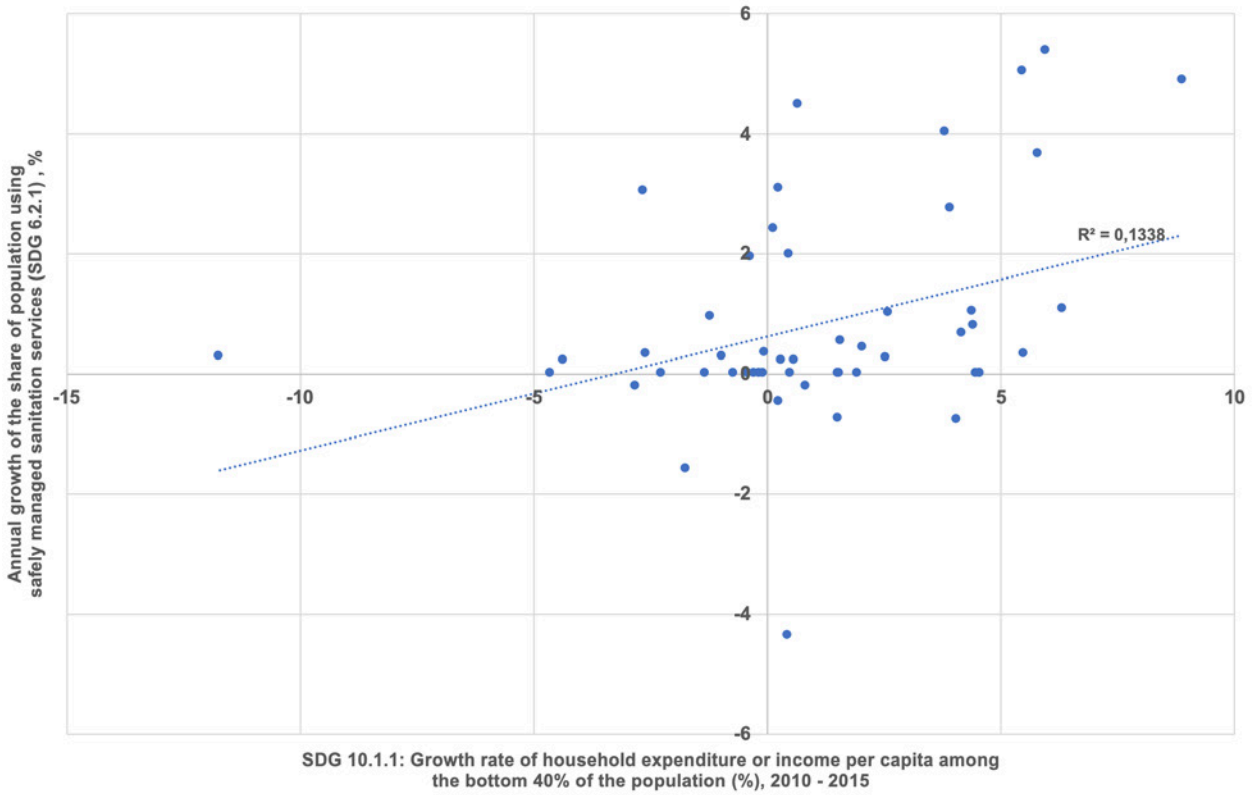
4a. *In Africa, Gender Inequality in the provision of sanitation services contributes to Income Inequality and Spatial inequality in provision of water services amplifies this for the most vulnerable populations especially in rural areas and urban slums. There is strong need to empower women and their engagement in the decision making, management and use of water resources and sanitation facilities.*

4b.[12] As poor and vulnerable groups (in Africa) are not homogeneous, policies regarding water supply and sanitation need to distinguish between different populations and design specific actions to address each of them. Disaggregated data (with respect to gender, age, income groups, ethnicity, culture, geography, etc.) and social inclusion analyses are key tools in determining which groups are at greatest risk of being 'left behind', and why. When resources are limited, it makes sense to target areas where populations have the least access to services.

[12] en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/wwdr_2019_main_messages.pdf

The linkage between SDG 6 and SDG 10 (reduction of inequality) may be considered particularly from the perspectives of geographic/spatial inequality, income inequality or gender inequality in the Africa context. All these aspects feed into the universal objective of eliminating or at least significantly reducing poverty with which the continent has been associated and which is the expressed end goal of the 2030 Agenda. Women are usually the predominant caretakers of domestic water, collecting water for household use and using water for irrigated agriculture. However, they usually still have less influence than men about how water, sanitation and wastewater services and infrastructure are designed and managed. In order to tear down the barriers women and girls are still facing, there is a strong need to empower women and their engagement in the decision making, management and use of water resources. A World Bank[13] evaluation of 122 water projects found that the effectiveness of a project was six or seven times higher when women were involved than when they were not.

Figure 7 - **Relation between SDG 10.1.1 and growth rate of SDG 6.2.1**.



Source: washdata.org/data/household; unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/

Aside from inequalities based on sex, these also exist on basis of income, geographical location etc. The scatter plot in figure 7 suggest that improving the well-being of households at the bottom of income distribution has positive implications for the share of population with safely managed sanitation services.

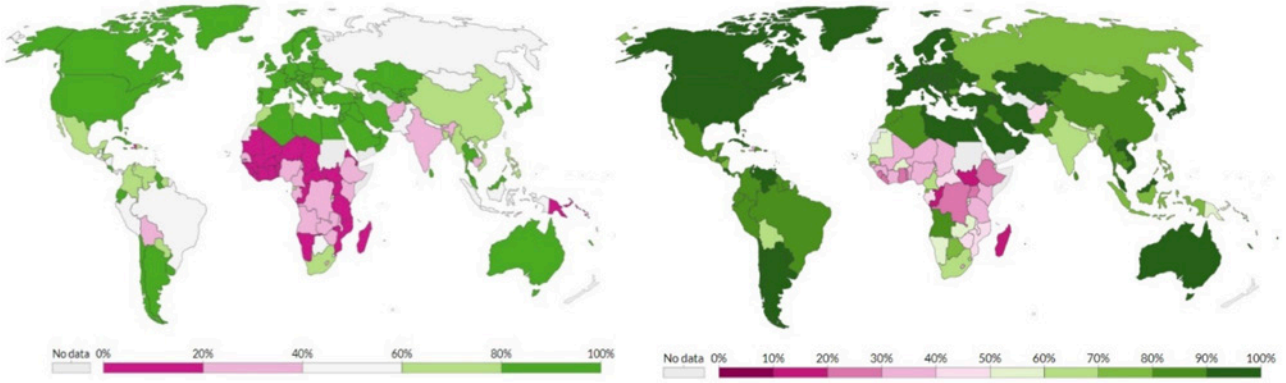
Recent JMP statistics show that the achievement of universal access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation is a remote goal in many countries in Africa. In addition, progress in reducing the gap between the poor and the well-off has not been sufficient in many countries. It is unacceptable that the wealthy generally receive high levels of service at often lower prices than the poor (e.g. slum dwellers) who pay for a service of similar or lesser quality. Consequently, the equitable and sustainable provision of these essential services has emerged as a top priority on the development agenda.

In addition to differences between nations, also very significant differences exist between rural and urban areas within African countries. An example of this can be identified when comparing the share of rural and urban population with improved sanitation facilities in 2015 (figure 8)[14].

[13] www.afdb.org/en/blogs/investing-in-gender-equality-for-africas-transformation/post/addressing-gender-issues-in-urban-water-and-sanitation-17741/

[14] ourworldindata.org/water-use-sanitation

Figure 8. Share of rural (left) and urban (right) population with improved sanitation facilities in 2015



Source: Data from WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (ourworldindata.org/water-use-sanitation). Maps from the World Bank (ourworldindata.org/water-use-sanitation#access-to-improved-sanitation)

6. THE LINK BETWEEN SDG 6 AND SDG 13 - (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts)

Policy Recommendation #5

5a. In Africa, Climate Change[15] Impacts are manifested through water (floods and droughts). Adaptation measures to assure resilient communities and reduce human and economic losses requires drastic increases in investment in sustainable water infrastructure and management systems. This is needed in water storage infrastructure for the management of Floods and Vulnerability assessments and early warning systems and mitigation measures for Droughts.

5b. African governments and their relevant institutions/partners must invest more human and financial resources in data gathering and analysis on the human and economic losses from disasters (especially floods and droughts) so that they can formulate, plan and budget for adaptation and resilience measures based on hard evidence and thus improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their limited resources.

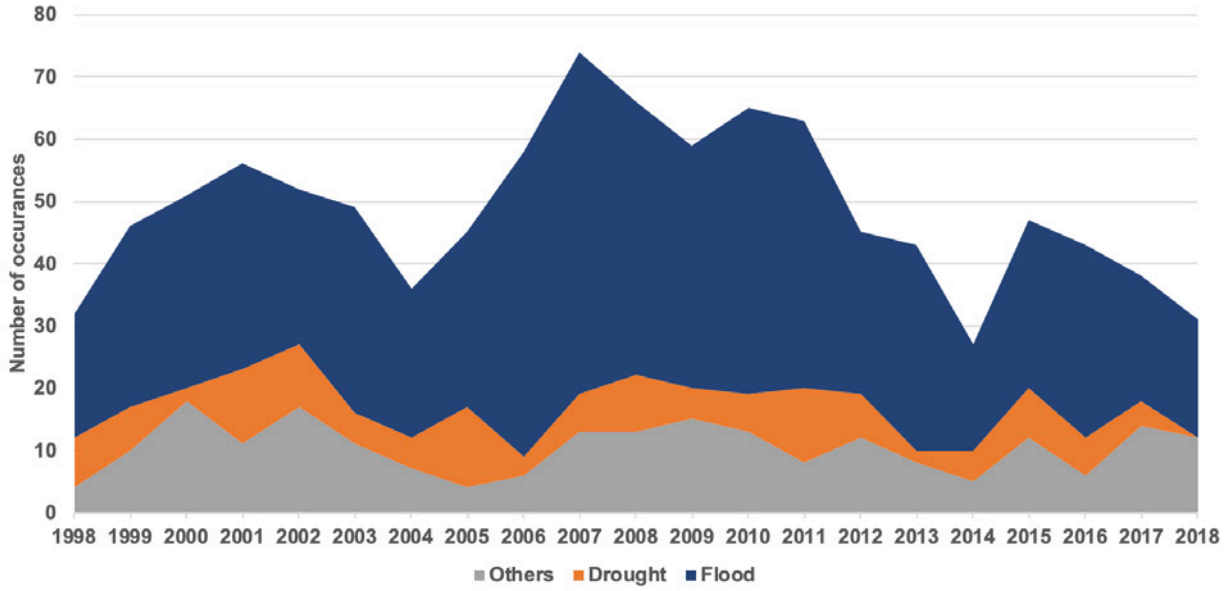
Climate projections indicate increasing water stress in some African regions. In some parts of Africa, e.g. the Niger River basin, it is not clear if climate change will lead to more or less precipitation. In addition, it is a challenge to separate the impacts of climate change from those of population growth, land use changes and other factors. Depending on the specific regional and local impacts of climate change, African countries can increase resilience, for example, through adapted water resources management approaches and flexible use of natural and grey water storage. The specific approaches are included in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with the objective to implement the Paris Agreement.

In terms of occurrences, climate-related disasters accounted for 62% of all 1666 recorded events between 1998 and 2017 in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Within climate-related disasters, floods were the most frequent type of disaster, 66% of all recorded events (Figure 9).

Although incidents of drought occurred fewer times relative to flooding, in some places of Sub Saharan Africa (SSA), its duration and intensity were quite severe. For example, between July 2011 and mid-2012, a severe drought affected the entire East Africa region. It resulted in a severe food crisis across Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya that threatened the livelihood of 9.5 million people. The area remained under great water stress until 2015.

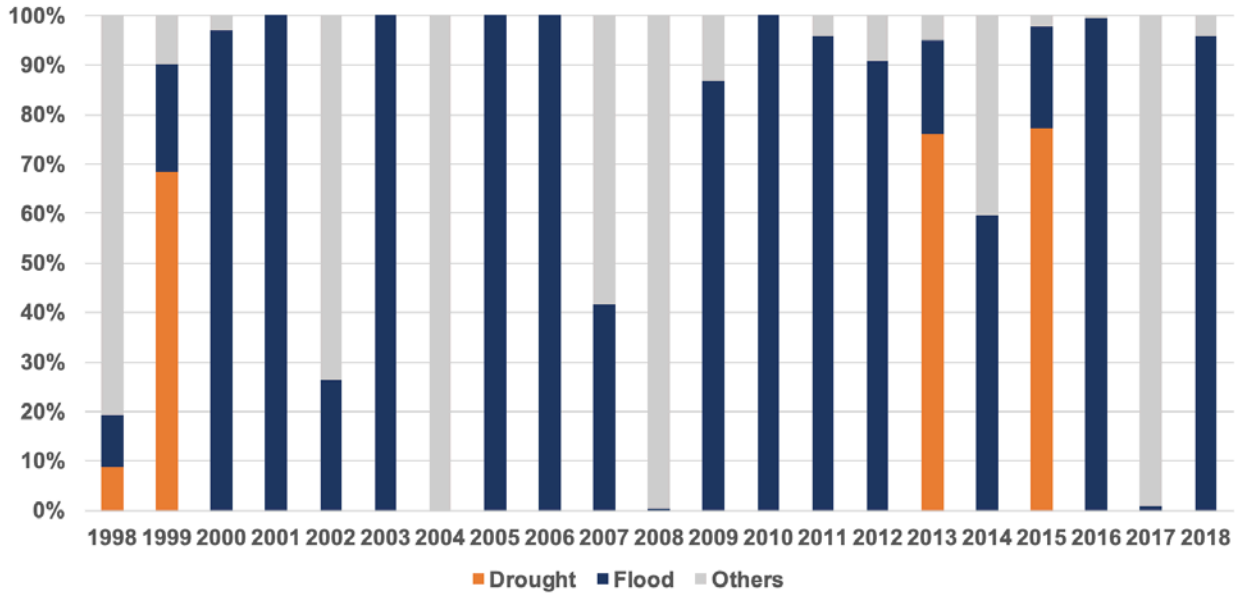
[15] www.researchgate.net/publication/329248484_Future_Climate_Projections_in_Africa_Where_Are_We_Headed_Investigating_the_Business_of_a_Productive_Resilient_and_Low_Emission_Future

Figure 9. **Number of climate-related disasters by major category per year from 1998-2018**



Source: EM-DAT, 2019

Figure 10. **Share of (economic) losses in SSA due to flood and drought as a percentage of annual climate-related disaster losses 1998-2018**

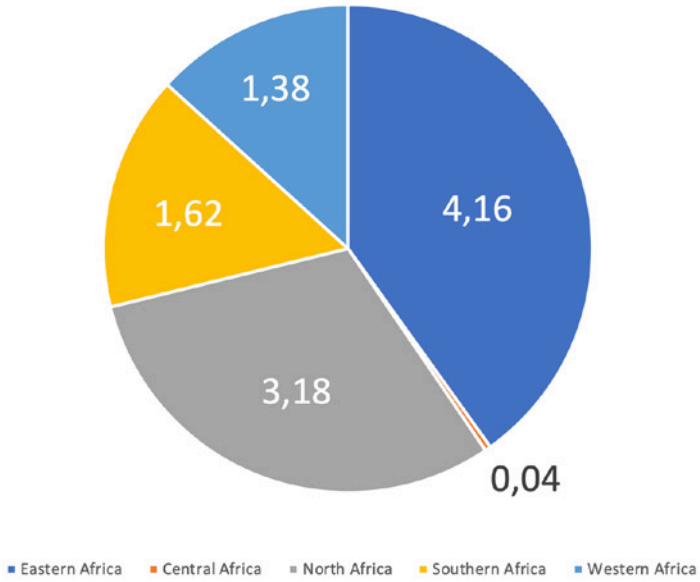


Source: EM-DAT, 2019

Economic cost calculations are available for less than 14% of all disasters in Africa and stay under-reported. Figure 10 shows a variability of relative economic loss reporting by climate-related disasters. With all African countries signing the Paris Agreement[16] and adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR is actively supporting 100 countries, including 30 in Africa, in the development and maintenance of national disaster loss databases. Economic losses reporting patterns seem to be skewed in the past 20 years in favour of flooding disasters. This can be attributed to the fact that floods are natural disasters that occur on a relatively short timescale (hours-days) whereas droughts are slow-onset disasters that occur over longer timescales (weeks-years).

[16] unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

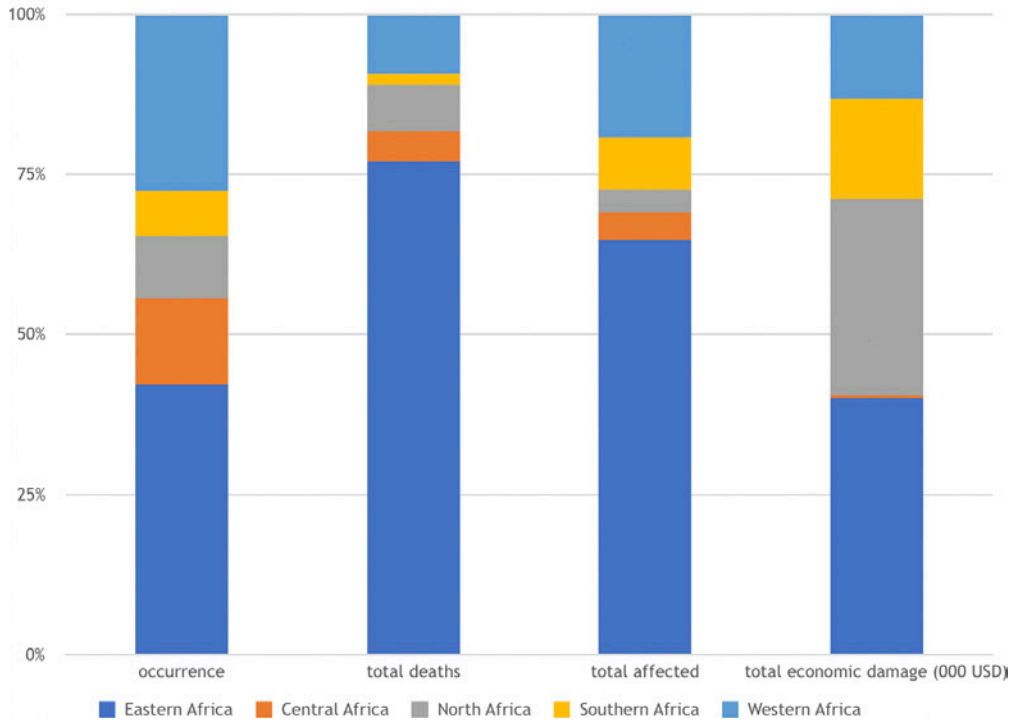
Figure 11. Total reported economic losses due to flooding in SSA for 1998-2018 in Billion USD



Source: EM-DAT, 2019

East and North Africa accounted for about 70% of economic loss for the last 20 years (figure 11). Western and Southern Africa bore less than on third of the amount of ecnomic loss. Central Africa reported very little, probably also due to the lack of reporting mechanisms.

Figure 12. Relative human and economic costs of Flood and Drought disasters on SSA 1998-2018



Source: EM-DAT, 2019

Figure 12 shows that populations affected by climate-related disasters overwhelmingly lived in flood- and drought-prone areas in Eastern and Western Africa (85%) and also reported 85% of all deaths. This is set to be exceeded by the Cyclone Idai in Southern Africa.

Cyclone IDAI

Over 1,000 feared dead after cyclone slams into Mozambique - *President Filipe Nyusi*
'The waters of the Pungue and Buzi rivers overflowed, making whole villages disappear and isolating communities, and bodies are floating' *Ottawa Citizen, 19th March 2019*

ottawacitizen.com/news/world/red-cross-says-mozambiques-beira-port-hard-hit-by-cyclone/wcm/8b494a41-2ac2-4825-8ef1-2711f709b04d
www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-47638588
www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47678743

7. THE LINK BETWEEN SDG 6 AND SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)

Policy Recommendation #6

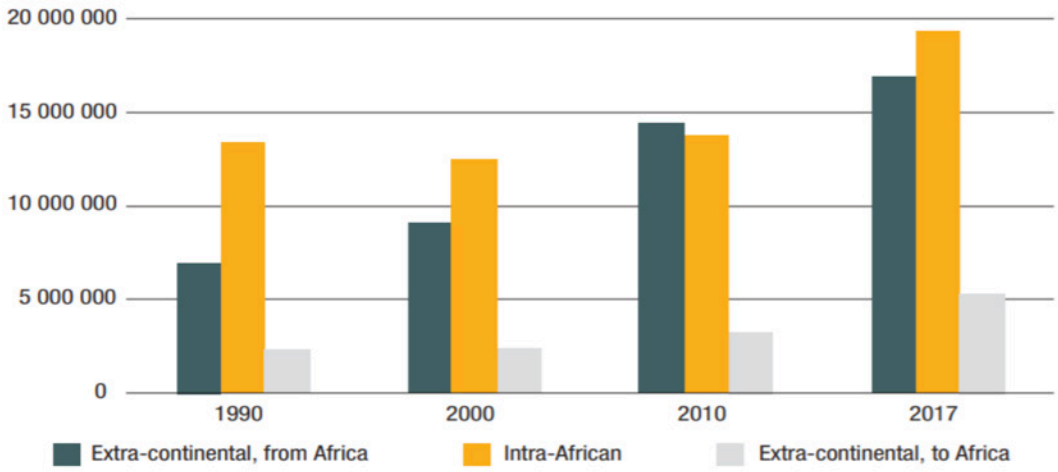
In Africa, Governments and their partner stakeholders must utilize water as an instrument of regional economic and social integration in which access to water as a human right is affirmed and supported by strong intra-and inter-national basin institutions to assure peace and sustained development.

The linkage between SDGs 6 and 16 are multi-facetted. In this section, we focus on three aspects: water and peace, water as a human right and water institutions. In Africa, water has been considered an instrument for regional economic and social integration to achieve socioeconomic development (African Water Vision 2025, 2000). Equity in the utilization and management of transboundary resources based on a basin-wide approach can be a catalyst for regional cooperation, integration and a strong foundation for peaceful co-existence between communities and states.

Water and Peace

In Africa, with increasing water stress and 55 countries with some 63 transboundary river basins and 72 transboundary aquifers (TBAs), the potential for both inter- and intra-state conflicts is high. The sources of tension are varied. In major basins such as the Nile, Volta, Zambezi and Senegal River Basin Organizations (RBOs), progress has been made by developing a common vision supported by multi-country development projects and management systems in response to existing and projected future competition for the water resources. At the intra-state level, competition between **herders and farmers, ethnic conflict over land and water** resources especially in periods of drought are increasing and has led to violent conflicts. This is especially so in the Sahelian zone with localized conflicts especially in the Lake Chad region and in the drylands between Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and northern Uganda. Nevertheless, these conflicts have serious security implications for the region and have contributed to insurgencies such as the Boko Haram in Nigeria, Al Shabab in the Horn of Africa and ethnic conflicts in northern Uganda and South Sudan. Such conflicts over resources and the attendant insecurity can lead to internal displacement of millions of people and refugees streams within and between African States and beyond to Europe and the Middle East (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Number of international migrants[17] from, within and to Africa



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNDESA figures, 2017.

[17] unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/aldcafrica2018_en.pdf

Water and Justice

Most African countries have adopted the principle that access to water and sanitation[18] is a human right. However, too little progress has been made in implementing this principle in national laws and statutes with the only exceptions being South Africa[19] and Kenya[20]. This hesitancy is attributed, in most cases, to the lack of resources (financial, institutional and human). However, to achieve universal access to WASH for all and leave no one behind, it is essential that this principle be codified into laws in all countries if SDG 6 is to be achieved in Africa by 2030.

Strong Institutions

With respect to the third aspect of SDG 10 on strong institutions, Africa has made significant progress since the adoption of the African Water Vision 2025 by the African Union Heads of State Summit in 2004. At the continental level, the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) was established and is the only such continental policy body globally for water. Further, all the sub-Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have established or strengthened their Water Units, a good example being the SADC. At the basin level most of the major river basins (Senegal River Basin (OMVS), Mano River Union, NBI, Volta, Orange, etc) have established institutions or cooperative arrangements for the joint management of their water resources and formed the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) to enhance exchange of experiences and provide advocacy support for its members.

8. THE LINK BETWEEN SDG 6 AND SDG 17 (Means of implementation and global partnerships for sustainable development)

Policy Recommendation #7

African governments must mobilize new domestic sources of funding, improve the efficiency in the use of existing (internal and external) financial inflows, make water and sanitation investments more attractive for (domestic and foreign) private sector financing and increase the use of technology for data acquisition, monitoring and accountability through effective and inclusive multi-stakeholder processes. These are key pre-requisites for Africa to achieve the SDG targets of 2030 Agenda, Africa Water Vision 2025 and the AU Agenda 2063.

The linkage between SDG 6 and 17 addresses the important issues related to financing, multi-stakeholder partnerships as well as data, monitoring and accountability. In implementing the SDGs, the ultimate outcome in Africa will depend primarily on the *Means of Implementation*. These MoI's are moreover interlinked, and effective policies in each activity are mutually reinforcing. Existing financing and coordination mechanisms such as the **Africa Water Facility (AWF)** and the **Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI)** of the Africa Development Bank respond directly to the demand in Goal 17 by providing a platform for mobilizing additional financial resources while enhancing the global partnership for sustainable development and strengthening capacity for monitoring and accountability for African countries.

The African Water Facility (AWF), managed by the **African Development Bank (AfDB)**, is an initiative led by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) to mobilize resources as well as provide expert technical assistance to finance, implement and raise finance for innovative water projects throughout Africa.

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI), on the other hand, is an Africa-wide initiative hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB). RWSSI reflects the need for concerted efforts led by national and regional stakeholders as well as global partnerships such as the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership. Since the inception of RWSSI in 2003, the AfDB has invested €1.53 billion in financing 53 RWSS programs in 35 countries. By December 31, 2015, the Initiative had mobilized over €5.93 billion from the AfDB, other donors, African governments, beneficiary communities and the RWSSI Trust Fund.

[18] www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/human_right_to_water.shtml

[19] www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/19/11/2012/clean-water-south-africa-human-rights-and-constitutional-protections

[20] www.2030wrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Understanding-the-Kenyan-Water-Act-2016.pdf

AMCOW, established by the declaration of Ministers responsible for Water from Africa Member States, is an embodiment of SDG 17 as a regional cooperation framework providing political leadership, policy direction and advocacy. The organs and structures of AMCOW serve as the Working Group on Water and Sanitation of the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. AMCOW has also developed a monitoring and reporting system in direct response to the Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/ Decl.1 (XI)) of the African Union (AU) made in Sharm El Sheik in July 2008. AMCOW was asked to report annually to the AU Assembly on the progress made in the implementation of the Commitments on water and sanitation.

Further it is worth mentioning that SDG 17 calls in target 18 to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable (disaggregated) data. This stands in contrast with the overall lack of data on a range of water-related topics in many African countries. Efforts should be made in view of data collection and processing to fill the data gap. This is being done at the African continental level through programmes such as the GMES and Africa[21] and its predecessors MESA[22] and AMESD[23] as part of the AU-EU Strategic Partnership.

[21] au.int/en/GMESAfrica/background

[22] swfound.org/media/126461/7_mesa1.pdf

[23] www.un-spider.org/sites/default/files/MARCLE~2.pdf

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