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# WEST AFRICA 2020 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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Progress towards achieving the 2030 sustainable development  
agenda and related 2063 Agenda objectives



VERSION 4.0

ECA  
WEST AFRICA OFFICE

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>CAD</b>	Development Assistance Committee
<b>CEA</b>	Economic Commission for Africa
<b>NCCNCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>IDE</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>PPP</b>	Purchasing power parity
<b>PTFs</b>	Technical and financial partners
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>UNHABITAT</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollars
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>WDI</b>	World Development Indicators

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The 2020 monitoring report on the progress of implementation in West Africa of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the corresponding objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063 is innovative compared to those of previous years. It assesses progress per main indicator and aggregated progress per objective and per country, examines the major reforms undertaken by the countries during the last five years in relation to the implementation of the SDGs, declines the gaps and assesses the social and economic capacities of the States to face the potential effects of the health crisis of the Covid-19 on sustainable development.

This annual report produced by the ECA Office in West Africa is intended to be an advocacy and decision-making tool to stimulate efforts to accelerate the achievement of the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda, and the ones equivalent to the 2063 Agenda within the framework of the Decade of Action. It contextualizes in the West Africa sub-region the various SDGs implementation assessment reports produced by the United Nations system and ECA in particular, with its partners.

Specifically, the report aims to:

- Assessing West Africa's progress towards achieving the MDGs and Agenda 2063 in turn;
- Identifying and analysing the main reforms undertaken by the countries over the last five years in order to accelerate the achievement of the sustainable development objectives of the two agendas;
- Identifying the main gaps to be filled during the decade of action ;
- Assessing the socio-economic capacities of the States to respond in a resilient manner to the effects of the health crisis of Covid-19 in the context of their efforts towards the achievement of the sustainable development objectives of the 2030 and 2063 agendas.
- Providing political decision-makers and development actors in the sub-region with an information, advocacy and decision-making tool in the decade of action to accelerate the achievement of SDG targets and the Agenda 2063.

The rest of the report is structured as follows:

- Methodology, Data Sources and Limitations ;
- Analysis of reforms to accelerate the implementation of the MDGs and the 2063 Agenda;
- Monitoring progress towards achieving the MDGs and the 2063 Agenda;
- Analysis of the gaps to be filled during the decade of action to ensure the achievement of the major sustainable development targets of the 2030 and the 2063 Agendas
- Assessment of the potential socio-economic capacities of the States in the face of the health crisis of the Covid-19
- Conclusion and proposed policy recommendations.

## 2. METHODOLOGY, DATA SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS

The analysis of country progress is based on the main indicators associated with each objective where data are available. The African Centre for Sustainable Development's African Sustainable

Development Goals Index is used to assess progress on each goal in order to assess aggregate progress by goal. This progress is assessed per goal and for all the goals aggregated for each country.

The African Sustainable Development Goals Index provides an aggregate measure of progress on each of the 17 goals using available data, including official SDG indicators and other measures from reliable official and other verifiable sources. The 2019 Index used in this report ranks 52 African countries<sup>1</sup> on the basis of 97 indicators for the 17 goals. The Index score <sup>2</sup>indicates a country's position between a value of 0 indicating no performance on the goal and a value of 100 indicating achievement of the goal. For instance, the score of 60 means that the country is 60% on track achieving the given SDG.

In addition, based on the MDG country assessment reports and the 2063 Agenda, the main reforms undertaken are identified and analysed by development planning sector and per SDG in order to assess the link between the progress made per SDG and the reforms implemented over the last five years to this effect. Based on this analysis of the performance link between progress and reforms, gaps are identified and analysed in order to suggest reforms and measures to be undertaken during the decade of action to fill the gap.

Finally, the socioeconomic capacities of the countries of the sub-region likely to contribute to contain or respond effectively to the adverse effects of the Covid-19 health crisis are identified and analysed.

For reasons of harmonization and comparability between countries, statistics mainly from international sources have been favoured in the assessment of progress.

### 3. ANALYSIS OF REFORMS AND IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS

Based on the inventory of policy reforms implemented or under implementation reflected in national implementation reports of national development strategies and plans as well as national voluntary review reports (NVRs), this section analyses the major reforms undertaken by countries over the last five years in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and those corresponding to the AU 2063 Agenda. This analysis<sup>3</sup> identifies the gaps that need to be filled during the decade of action by the States in order to give themselves the chance to meet the achievements by 2030 and 2063.

#### 3.1. Profile of pro-SDG policy reforms implemented by the States

The policy reforms undertaken by ECOWAS countries over the last five years have focused mainly on strengthening peace, justice and institutions (SDG16), providing decent jobs and enhancing economic growth (SDG8), strengthening partnership (SDG17) and to a lesser extent on improving the health and welfare of the population (SDG3). The last ten years of SDGs implementation should be devoted to consolidating and strengthening these reforms to ensure the sustainability of the related results.

On the other hand, very few policy reforms have been undertaken in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production (SDG12) and the conservation and sustainable use of ocean and marine resources (SDG14). However, reforms in the areas of combating and adapting to the effects of climate change (SDG13), reducing inequalities (SDG10), physical accessibility and cost

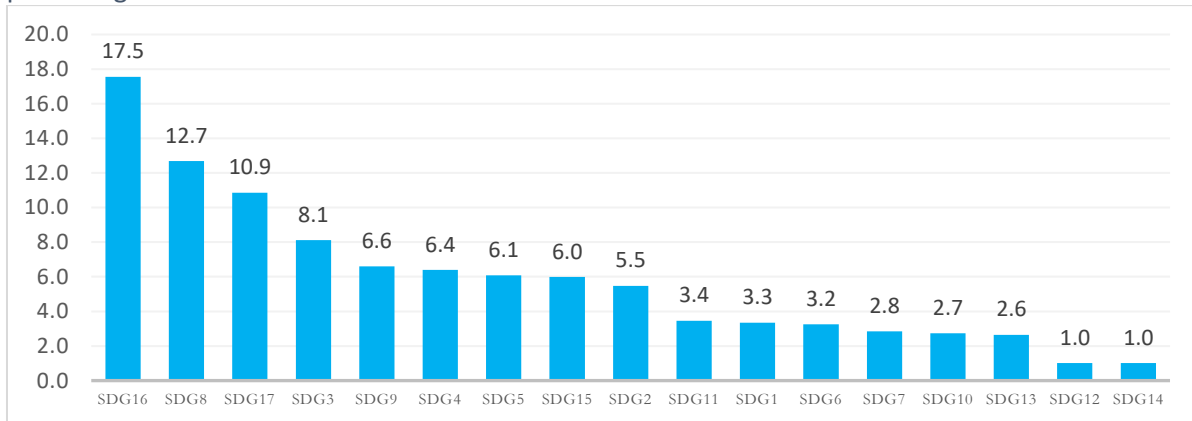
<sup>1</sup> Seychelles and Libya are excluded due to insufficient data coverage.

<sup>2</sup> <https://raw.githubusercontent.com/sdsna/2018GlobalIndex/master/2018GlobalIndexMethodology.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The methodology has consisted, after the inventory of reforms at the level of each country, to identify them by sector of activity and by SDG objective concerned mainly and secondarily. Subsequently, the accounting of the reforms is done per main SDG and the ratios of the number of reforms per SDG. The ratios per SDG are thus calculated per country and for the sub-region

of clean energy (SDG7), access to drinking water and sanitation infrastructure (SDG6), poverty eradication (SDG1) and promotion of sustainable cities (SDG11) have begun to produce results favourable to sustainable development but deserve to be intensified during the decade of action.

Figure1: Distribution of reforms undertaken in West Africa per SDG over the period 2016-2019, percentage



Source: ECA from country reports on the implementation of national development plans.

The trend towards sub-regional predominance of reforms over the last five years in favour of Goals 8; 16 and 17 is reflected in almost all the countries of the sub-region. This trend could be explained by the generalization in the sub-region of the fight against poor governance by strengthening good governance institutions and combating insecurity and extreme violence, not to mention the race towards structural transformation of economies through inclusive growth and the strengthening of domestic resource mobilization to finance the implementation of public policies as the main lesson learned from the implementation of the MDGs. Policy reform efforts to address the challenges of political instability, restoration of peace and insecurity in the Sahel in particular are reflected in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Niger. This trend is also perceptible in terms of economic growth in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and The Gambia (Table1).

With the exception of Ghana, the significant gaps observed in policy reforms undertaken at the regional level in relation to Goals 12 and 14 are perceived in almost all the countries. Those significant gaps are also recorded for Goal10 in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia. Despite its endogenous and cross-cutting nature to all the objectives, reforms directly targeting poverty eradication and the strengthening of social protection (SDG1) remain very little noticeable in some countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia). The same applies to access to drinking water and sanitation infrastructure in Burkina Faso and Niger.



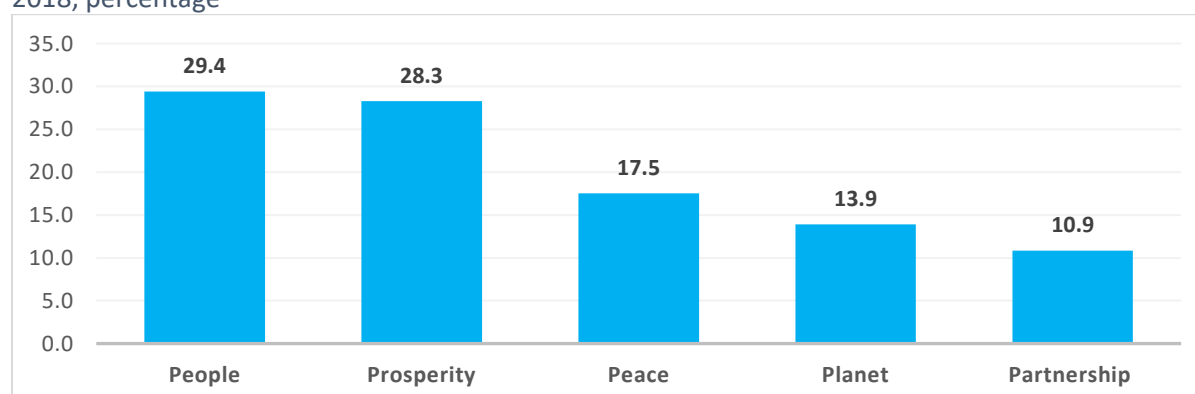
Table1: Breakdown of reforms undertaken per country and per SDG over the period 2016-2018, percentage

Country	17 Sustainable Development Goals																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Benin	0.0	0.0	11.1	7.4	1.9	1.9	3.7	13.0	7.4	0.0	3.7	0.0	3.7	0.0	14.8	13.0	18.5
Burkina Faso	3.3	6.6	13.2	6.6	7.7	0.0	5.5	16.5	2.2	0.0	1.1	0.0	2.2	0.0	4.4	15.4	15.4
Ivory Coast	0.7	2.0	7.5	10.9	4.1	4.8	0.0	19.7	8.2	0.0	4.8	0.0	1.4	0.0	4.8	22.4	8.8
Gambia	0.0	5.3	6.6	5.3	7.9	1.3	2.6	40.8	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.1	6.6
Ghana	4.4	5.8	9.5	10.2	2.9	8.0	8.0	6.6	8.8	2.2	2.2	5.1	3.6	2.9	2.2	10.9	6.6
Guinea	3.7	9.6	4.3	4.3	6.4	1.6	2.1	4.8	5.9	7.4	3.2	0.5	1.1	1.1	8.5	20.2	15.4
Niger	8.0	4.7	6.0	2.0	3.3	0.7	2.0	9.3	8.0	4.0	3.3	0.7	2.7	0.0	4.7	31.3	9.3
Senegal	2.8	5.6	11.2	5.6	13.3	5.6	0.7	7.7	4.9	2.8	7.0	0.7	6.3	2.8	9.8	4.2	9.1

Source: ECA calculations based on the inventory of NDP country assessment reports, 2020.

Analysis according to the "5Ps"<sup>4</sup> grouping of SDGs shows that most of the policy reforms undertaken by the sub-region over the last five years targeted people and the creation of prosperity for the welfare of the people (Figure49).

Figure2: Distribution of reforms undertaken in West Africa per "P" of SDGs over the period 2016-2018, percentage



Source: ECA from implementation reports of national development plans.

### 3.2. Identification of potential policy reform gaps and the decade of action

An analysis of the profile of policy reforms undertaken in West Africa over the last five years reveals that almost all countries in the sub-region have focused the implementation of public policies on strengthening the governance process (particularly economic, political and administrative), restoring peace, and combating insecurity and extreme violence (SDG16). The willingness of the political authorities in the sub-region to reach the stage of emerging countries through the implementation of various development policies and strategies targeting the structural transformation of economies through the creation of inclusive economic growth that generates decent jobs (SDG8) was also the subject of a significant number of policy reforms. Drawing lessons from the failures in the implementation of the MDGs linked in part to the international community's failure to meet its commitments to devote 0.7% of their national

<sup>4</sup> People: SDGs 1 to 4; Prosperity: SDGs 7 to 11; Planet: SDG6 + SDGs 12 to 15; Peace: SDG16; Partnership: SDG17

disposable income to official development assistance to developing countries, countries have made a commitment through the Addis Ababa Programme of Action (AAAA) to finance public policies for the most part from domestic resources and a win-win partnership (SDG17).

Moreover, in keeping up the momentum of efforts undertaken during the implementation of the MDGs, countries in the sub-region also intensified policy reforms aimed at improving access to health services (SDG3) and quality education (SDG4), the development of economic infrastructure in support of industrial and manufacturing sector development efforts (SDG9), governance and sustainable use of the Earth's ecosystem (SDG15) and improving yields and productivity of agricultural activities in support of food and nutrition security (SDG2).

In contrast, for the decade of action, policy reforms and interventions should target the MDGs that were forgotten during the first five years of MDG implementation and strengthen reforms at the level of the MDGs where signs of favourable results are beginning to emerge. Catching up on these important gaps should be in the areas of promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG12) and the conservation and sustainable use of ocean and marine resources (SDG14). Also, the maintenance and strengthening of the intensification of reforms should continue in the areas of adaptation to the effects of climate change (SDG13), reduction of inequalities (SDG10), access to clean energy (SDG7), access to drinking water and sanitation infrastructure (SDG6), eradication of extreme poverty (SDG1) and promotion of sustainable cities and controlled urbanization (SDG11).

#### **4. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGs AND THE 2063 AGENDA OBJECTIVES**

This chapter discusses the progress of the main indicators associated with each objective based on available data. It also analyses country progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda and, in turn, the corresponding goals of the African Union's 2063 Agenda using the African Union's Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa index. It presents successively the aggregate progress compared by African sub-region, the progress per objective and per country, and the aggregate progress of all the objectives per country.

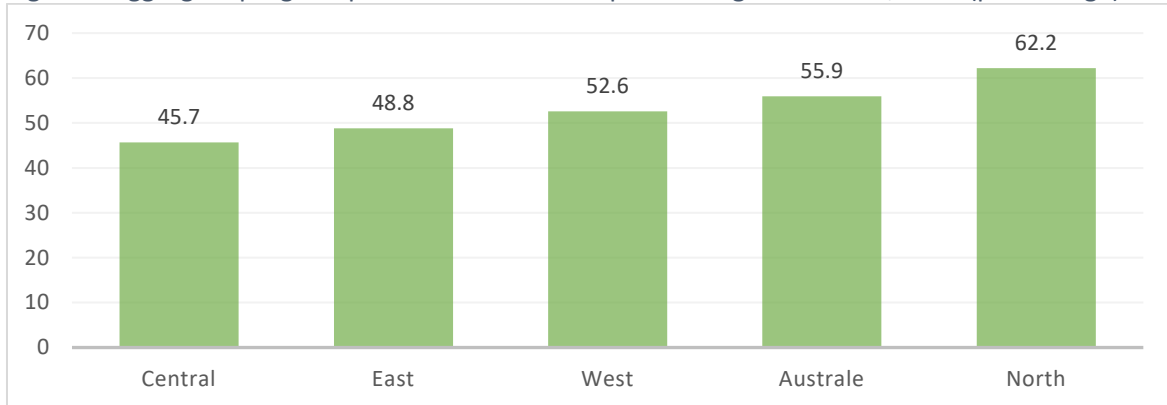
##### **4.1. Sub-regional Progress**

According to the 2019 estimates of the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa, West Africa is the third sub-region in terms of performance in terms of progress towards the achievement of sustainable development goals by 2030 after Southern Africa and North Africa, which has the best performance in terms of progress, i.e. about 62% average progress. West Africa has made 52.6% average progress towards achieving the MDGs by 2030 and Cape Verde and Ghana are the two driving forces in the sub-region towards achieving the MDGs. The sub-region recorded its best performance results in achieving Goals 13 and 12 and, to a lesser extent, Goals 15 and 10, particularly in the areas of climate change, sustainable consumption and production patterns, environmental protection and restoration, and reduction of inequalities.

Moreover, the major delays in providing production infrastructure and support (Goal9) and in the massive supply of quality health care (Goal3) are the main areas that inhibit efforts to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development in the sub-region. In addition to those two main areas of underperformance in the sub-region, despite the substantial progress made, there is also access to quality education (Goal4), access to drinking water and sanitation infrastructure of

sufficient quality and quantity for most of the population, with a wide disparity between rural and urban areas (Goal6). The sub-region would be in a good position to achieve Goal13 by 2030 and possibly satisfactory levels for Goals 2, 6, 14, 15 and 17 if reforms and scaling up interventions are carried out by countries during the decade of action.

Figure3: Aggregate progress performance of SDGs per sub-region in Africa, 2019 (percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.

#### 4.2. Progress performance per country and per goal

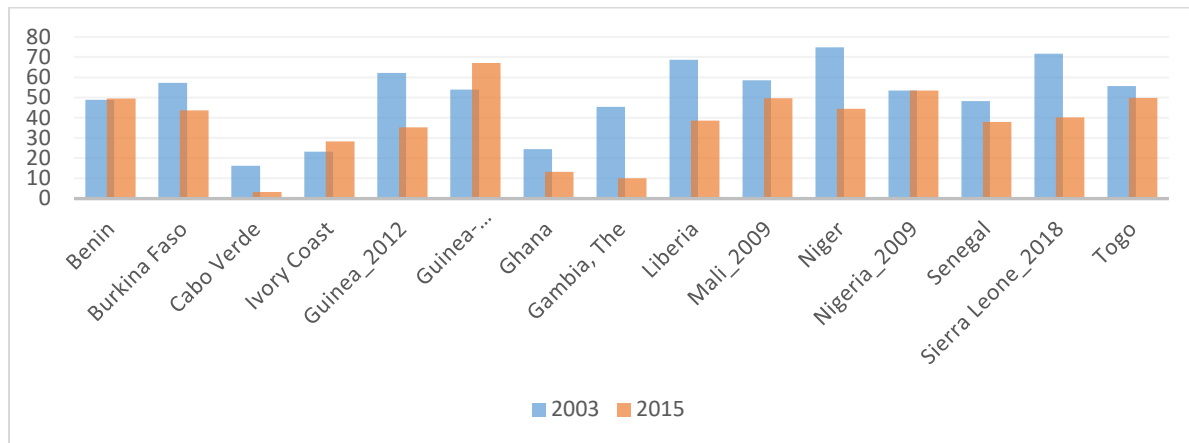


##### Goal1: Eradicating poverty in all its forms and throughout the world

According to the 2019 World Report on Sustainable Development, 56.0% of the world's population living in extreme poverty (less than US\$1.90 per day) in 2015 came from sub-Saharan Africa and this proportion could reach 90% by 2050 if nothing is done (United Nations, 2019). Moreover, in 2018, 45.0% of the region's employed population lived on less than US\$1.90 per day, which is particularly linked to the predominance of precarious and non-decent jobs in the region.

Despite its large population still living in extreme poverty, West Africa has seen a substantial decline in the proportion of poor people over the last two decades, from about 52% in 2002 to an average of 37% in 2015. Cape Verde (3.2%), The Gambia (10.1%), and Ghana (13.3%) have a poverty level well below the regional average, while Togo (49.8%), Benin (49.5%), Niger (44.5%), Burkina Faso (43.7%), Liberia (40.9%), and Sierra Leone (40.1%) still have a proportion of poor people well above the sub-regional average. The efforts of development actors to significantly reduce poverty are hampered by the still glaring level of inequalities, especially the income gap that is more detrimental to rural populations, women and youth.

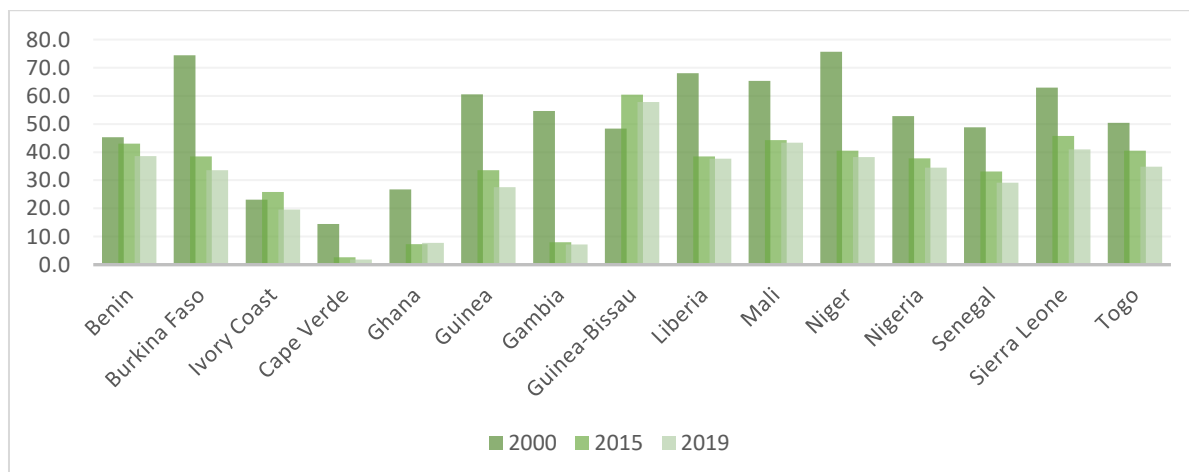
Figure4: Proportion of population living on less than \$1.90 per day (2011 PPP), percentage



Source: ECA from World Development Indicators Database, World Bank, 2020

In addition, the number of working poor in West Africa declined significantly between 2011 and 2017. Indeed, on average, 33.0 per cent of individuals in the population aged 25 and over who are employed lived on less than US\$1.90 per day in 2017 compared to an average of 37.3 per cent in Africa (Figure3). Over the same period, this proportion was less than 8.0 per cent in Cape Verde, Ghana, and The Gambia. However, the situation of working poverty is more worrying in Guinea-Bissau where the proportion over the same period is 60.4 per cent. This situation can be explained in part by the predominance of non-decent work and, in turn, low labour productivity (UNECA, 2019)<sup>5</sup>.

Figure5: Proportion of employees (+25 years) living with less than US\$1.90 PPP, percentage



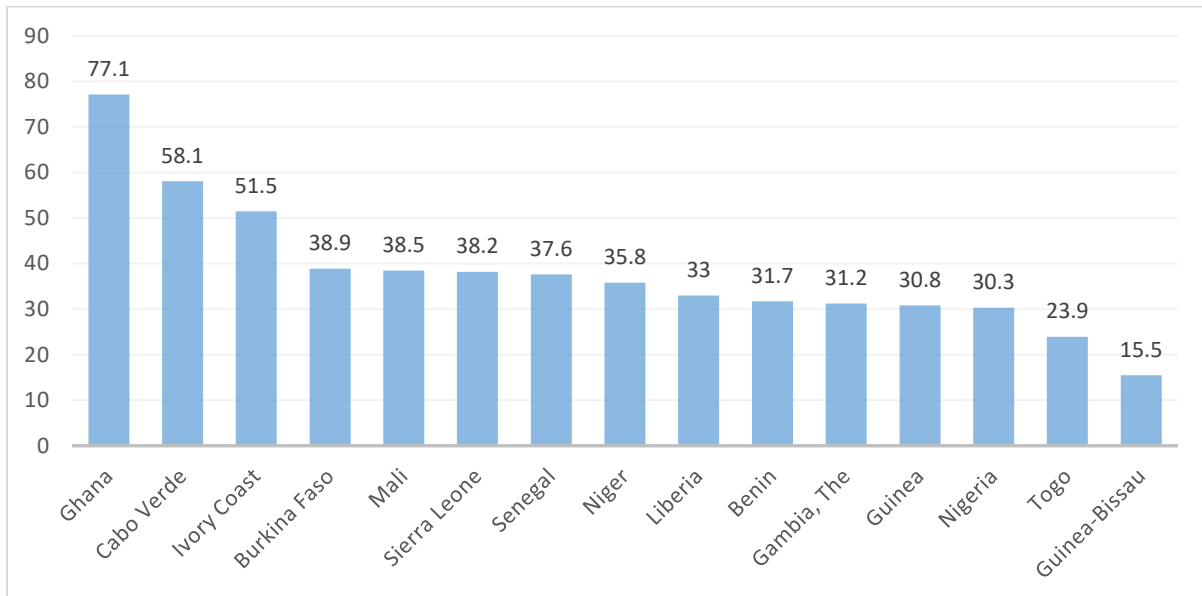
Source: ECA from ILO database, 2020

Overall, Ghana and Cape Verde would probably be on track to achieve Goal1 by 2030 with progress levels of 77.1% and 58.1% respectively (Figure4).

Thus, the decade of action in the sub-region should focus on addressing challenges related to low productivity, particularly in all agricultural sub-sectors, the non-inclusive nature of growth, inequalities, food insecurity, insecurity in the Sahel in particular, population dynamics, and low resilience to economic, financial and health shocks in particular.

<sup>5</sup>[https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019\\_French.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019_French.pdf)

Figure6: Performance in Progress towards SDG1 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



## Goal2: Eradicating hunger, ensure food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture

According to the 2018 report of the UN Secretary General on MDGs in the world, the food insecurity situation has greatly deteriorated in Africa. The number of undernourished people increased from 195 million in 2014 to 237 million in 2017. Africa is the region where the prevalence of hunger remains the highest, with a rate that increased from 20.7% in 2014 to 23.2% in 2017 (United Nations, 2019<sup>6</sup>).

The regional trend of food insecurity is reflected both in the population as a whole and among children. Indeed, the prevalence of undernourished population has deteriorated on average<sup>7</sup> from 16.4% in 2010 to 16.5% in 2017 while the prevalence of severe food insecurity has more than doubled from an average of 15.5% in 2015 to 39.2% in 2017. Although the proportion of underweight children under five years of age has declined slightly (19.6% in 2010 to an average

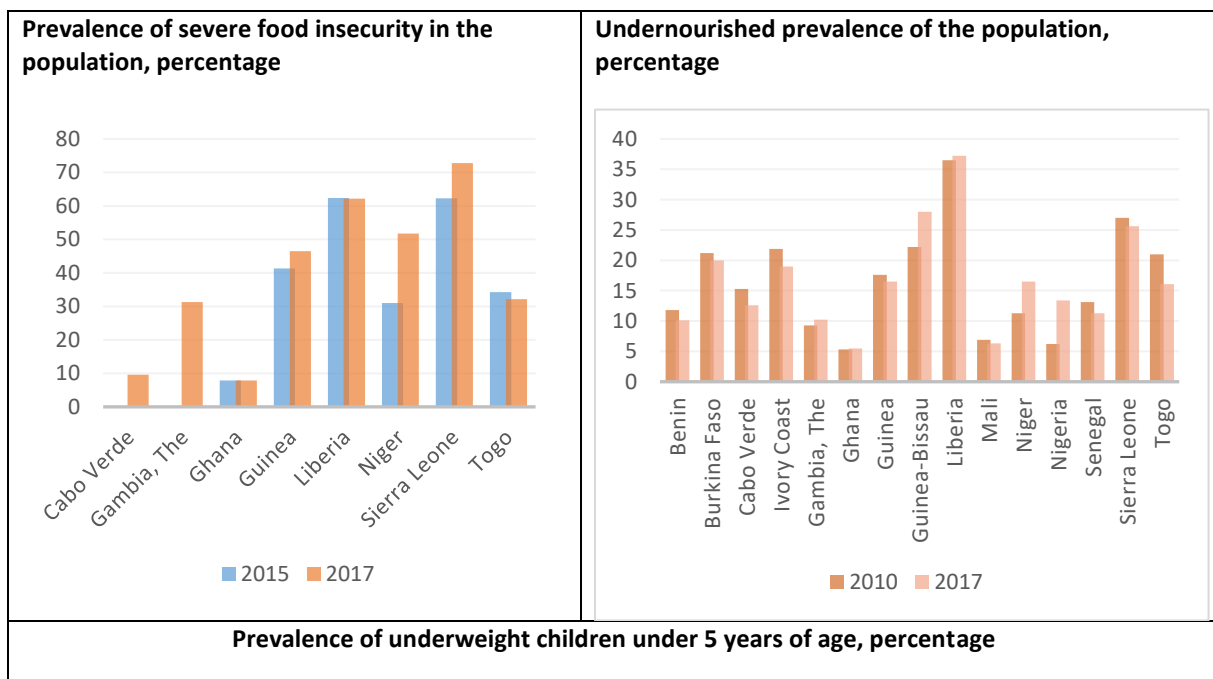
<sup>6</sup> [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019\\_French.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019_French.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Based on the analysis of statistics from the World Bank's World Development Indicators database

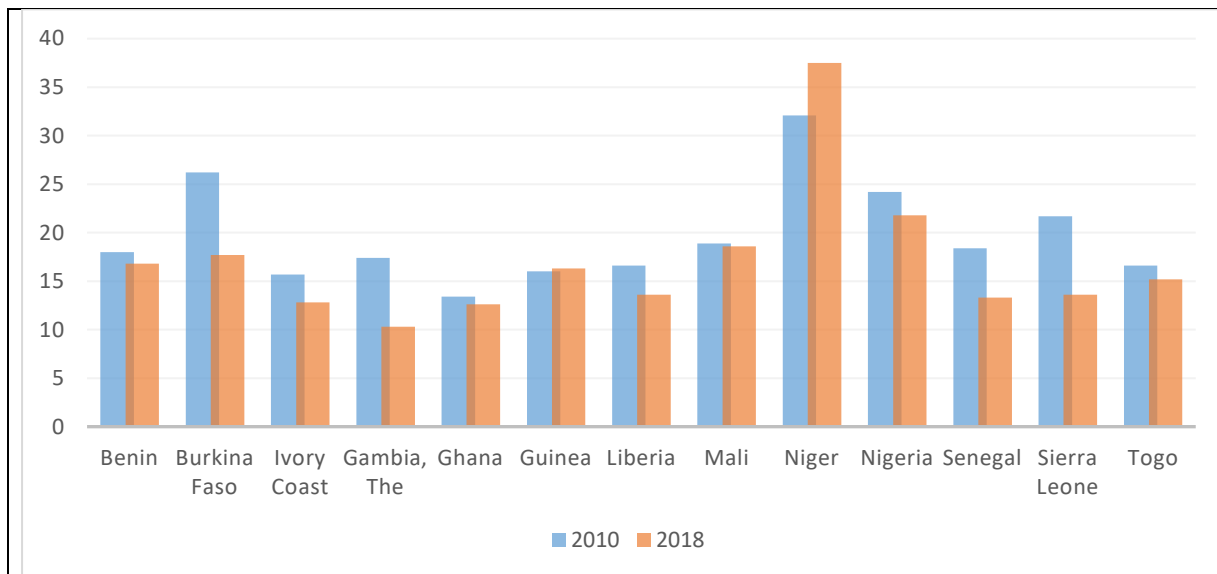
of 16.9%<sup>8</sup> in 2018), it remains high for this vulnerable segment of the population, given the disastrous long-term implications for educational attainment and productivity.

At the level of individual countries, Cape Verde (9.5% and 12.6% respectively) and Ghana (7.8% and 5.5% respectively) and to a lesser extent The Gambia (31.3% and 10.2% respectively) have low rates of food and nutrition insecurity in 2017 and are well below the regional average (Figure5). However, the situation remains worrisome in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Niger, Guinea Bissau, and Burkina Faso (Figure5). These country performances are corroborated by the efforts of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal, which are at a moderate level of performance in terms of progress towards the objective, having already covered more than 50% of the distance towards the target (Figure6).

Figure7: Prevalence of severe food insecurity, undernourished population and underweight in West Africa, percentage



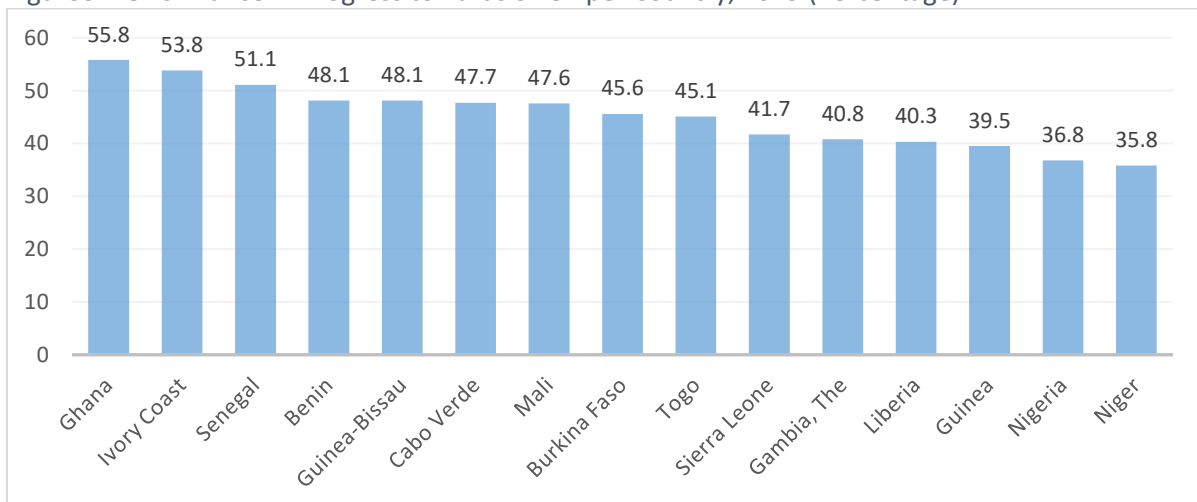
<sup>8</sup> Same as 5)



Source: ECA from World Development Indicators Database, World Bank, 2020

The deterioration of the food and nutrition situation in Africa in general and in West Africa in particular, would be partly linked to the increase in conflicts in the region over the last decade (FAO, 2018). These conflict-related cyclical effects have exacerbated the adverse effects of climatic shocks, recurrent droughts and many other factors that threaten to reduce agricultural and livestock productivity in the sub-region in general and in the Sahel in particular.

Figure8: Performance in Progress towards SDG2 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



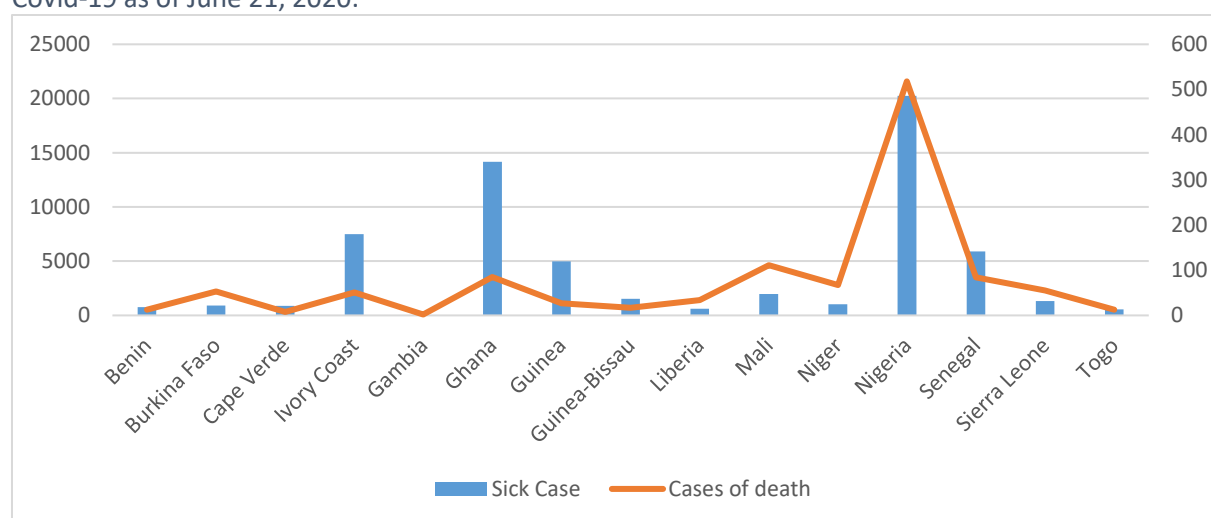
Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



### Goal3: Enabling everyone to live a healthy lifestyle and promoting the well-being of all people at all ages.

Like other regions of the world, Africa has made progress in improving the health status of its people over the past two decades. These achievements have been partly driven by the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and consolidated by the implementation of the SDGs. In fact, the maternal mortality<sup>9</sup> rate (from 878 per 100,000 births on average in 2000 to 542 per 100,000 births in 2017) and infant<sup>10</sup> mortality rate (from 91.1 per 1,000 births on average in 2000 to 51.7 per 1,000 births in 2019) have declined substantially, life expectancy continues to increase<sup>11</sup> (from 50.45 years on average in 2000 to 61.27 years in 2018), and the fight against certain infectious diseases has met with great success in all the countries of the region. However, it should be pointed out that the occurrence of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, with its unprecedented rate of infection and the weakening of health systems that are already structurally vulnerable, could undermine these efforts and further increase the health deficit of the countries.

Figure9: Situation of the cumulative number of patients (left axis) and deaths (right axis) of Covid-19 as of June 21, 2020.



Source: Based on data from <https://github.com/owid/covid-19-data/tree/master/public/data>, consulted on June 22, 2020

As of 21 June, 2020<sup>12</sup> 8,708,008 cases of Covid-19 patients of which 461,715 deaths have been recorded at the world level and Africa represents only 0.3% of the cases of patients (293,721 cases) and only 1.6% of the cases of deaths (7,778 cases) with Egypt, Algeria, South Africa and

<sup>9</sup><https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/maternal-mortality-2000-2017/en/>

<sup>10</sup><https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN?locations=ZG>

<sup>11</sup><https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN?locations=ZG>

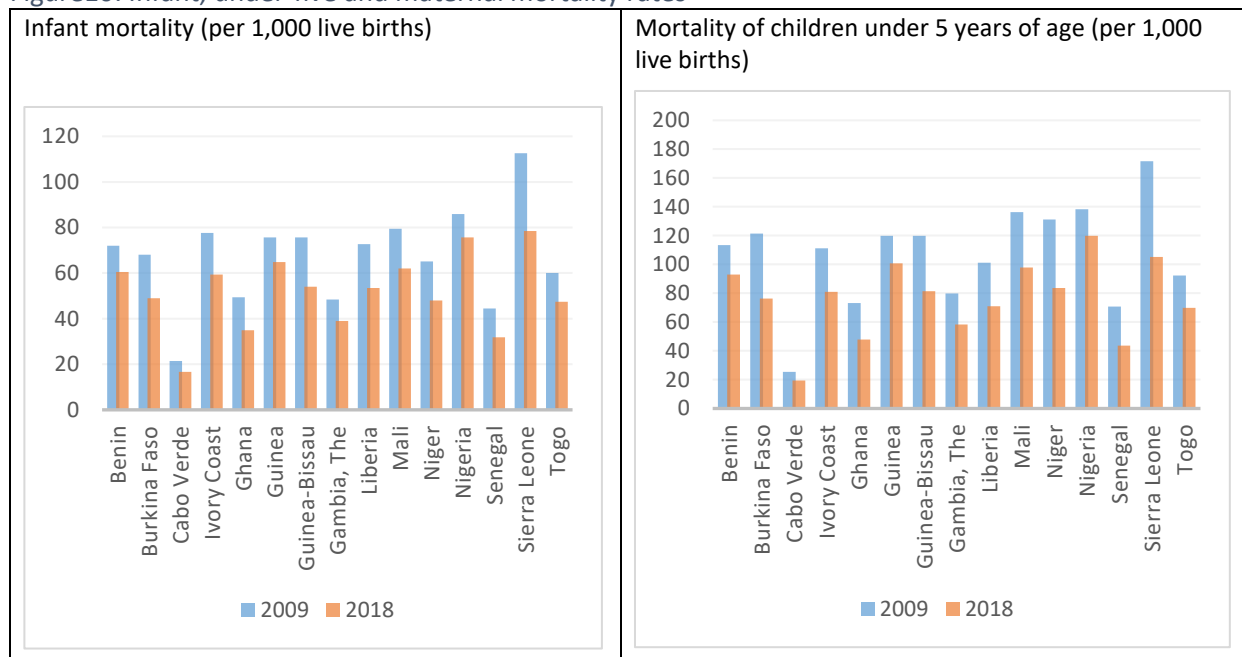
<sup>12</sup> The most recent data at the time of writing the section



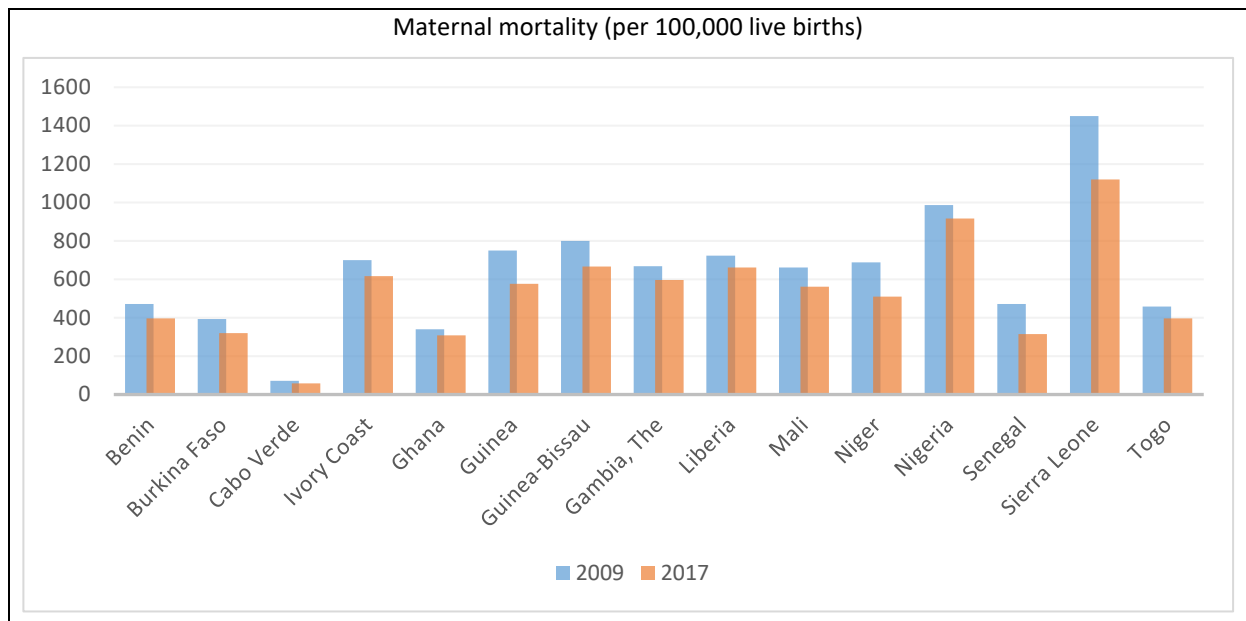
Nigeria identified as the countries most affected by the pandemic. At the sub-regional level, West Africa at the same period recorded 12.2% of the cases of illness in Africa (62,421 cases) and 14.63% of deaths (1,138 cases). Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal are the countries in the sub-region that recorded 76.5% (47,788 cases) of the sub-region's sick cases.

Reforms undertaken in the health sector, particularly in terms of improving the physical accessibility and cost of health services, in all countries of the sub-region have led to a substantial decline in infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates. On average<sup>13</sup>, the infant mortality rate declined from 67.2 in 2009 to 51.7 deaths per 1,000 live children in 2018 and the under-five mortality rate from 107.1 to 76.6 deaths per 1,000 live children over the same period. The maternal mortality rate decreased from 642.2 in 2009 to 534.7 deaths per 1000 live children in 2017. Cape Verde has the lowest rates in the sub-region on all indicators. However, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone and Senegal are the group of countries that recorded good performance in terms of improved health indicators in the sub-region. The initiatives relating, among others, to free health care for children and pregnant women as well as the increase in the number of health care personnel recorded in all the countries of the sub-region would have greatly contributed to this good performance.

Figure10: Infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates



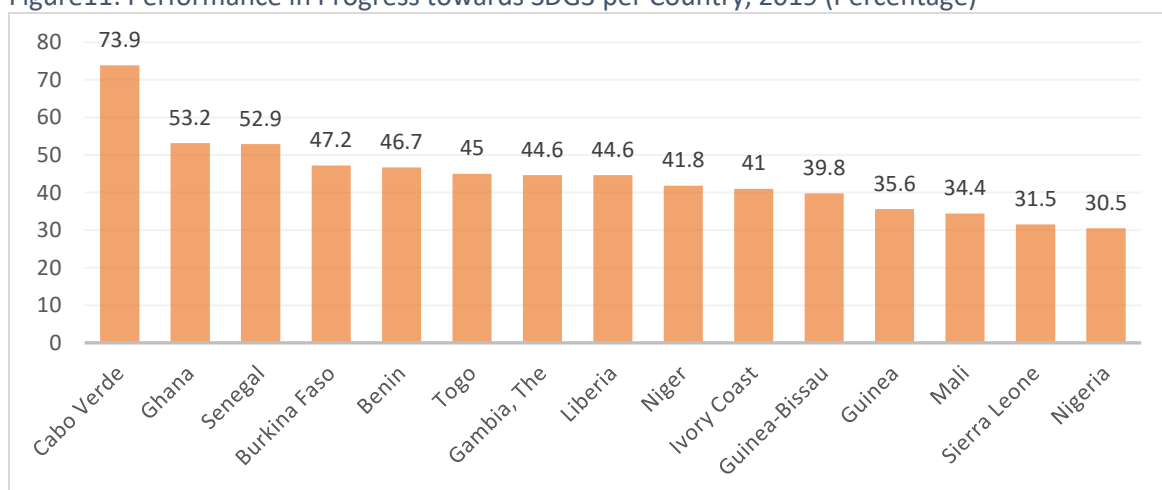
<sup>13</sup><https://github.com/owid/covid-19-data/tree/master/public/data>



Source: ECA from WDI, World Bank and WHO 2020

Overall, Cape Verde, which has already achieved about 74% of the distance to be covered, would be in a good position to achieve SDG3 by 2030, and to a lesser extent Ghana and Senegal, if accelerated efforts to improve the supply and demand for health services are made during the decade of action.

Figure11: Performance in Progress towards SDG3 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



#### **Goal4: Ensuring equal access to quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning opportunities**

According to UNESCO (2019), in 2018 Africa accounted for 54% of the world's 262 million children aged 6 to 17 who were not in school. This proportion, which was estimated at 41% in 2000, has increased significantly and is deteriorating due in part to the dizzying increase in the population of this segment of the population in relation to the fertility and population growth rates revealed in the region. This degradation would also be the result of a less than proportional increase in the educational offer, especially in terms of infrastructure and teaching staff compared to the population growth of the age group concerned. This regional trend is observed at the sub-regional level.

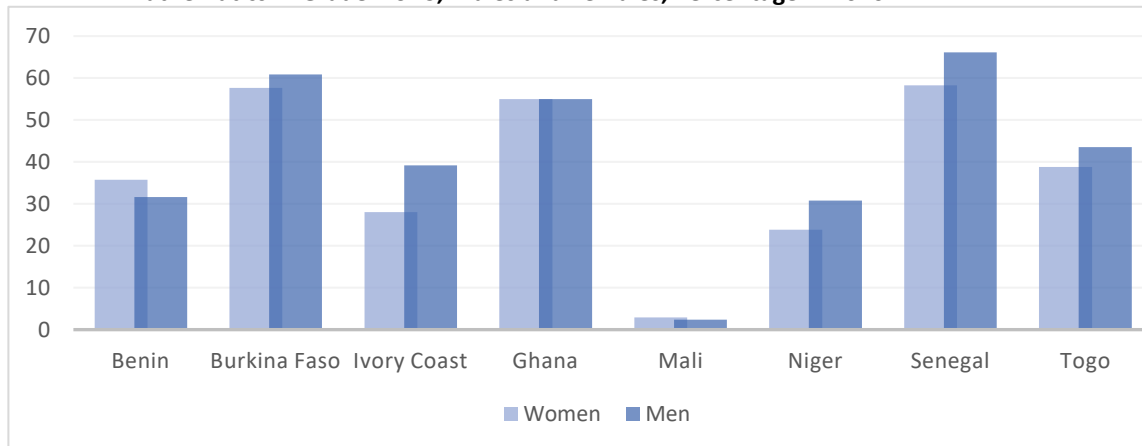
The performance of the education system is not only limited to the schooling of children, but also and above all to the completion of that schooling. While completion of primary education is already universal in high-income and most middle-income countries, seven out of the fifteen ECOWAS countries had dropout rates ranging from 18.2% to 41.0% in 2018. This rate is estimated at less than 1.0% in Ghana and Sierra Leone.

Moreover, in terms of education quality as recommended in the MDGs, the sub-region should take advantage of the decade of action to catch up. In fact, the proportion of children having attained at least the minimum threshold of competence in mathematics in the second or third grade was less than 30% in most countries of the sub-region with only less than 3% in Mali against more than 60% in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Senegal. It should be noted that aptitude for mathematics is almost in favour of boys, hence the dynamism underway in countries in promoting science in favour of girls in order to overcome this counterproductive inequality.

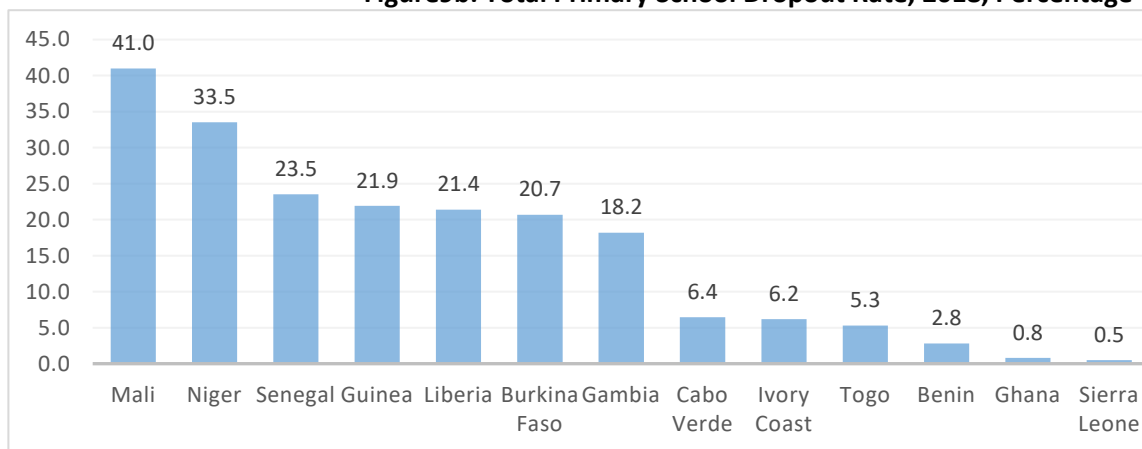
This structural profile of low educational quality, particularly in terms of drop-out rates, could deteriorate as a result of Covid-19. In West Africa, the prevention and response measures taken to deal with the pandemic have led to the total closure of schools for a period of three to four months. Measures not favourable to the quality of education have been taken in most countries in order to save the school-year 2019-2020. Those measures, which consist on the one hand of devoting only one month of teaching to students in exam classes and on the other hand allowing those who are not in exam classes to move up to the next class, could potentially negatively impact the quality of education in the post-Covid-19 period.

Figure12: Acquisition of Minimum Math Proficiency and Elementary School Dropout Rate, Percentage 2018

**Figure9a: Proportion of Children Who Have Achieved at Least the Minimum Level of Proficiency in Mathematics in Grade 2 or 3, Males and Females, Percentage in 2016**



**Figure9b: Total Primary School Dropout Rate, 2018, Percentage**

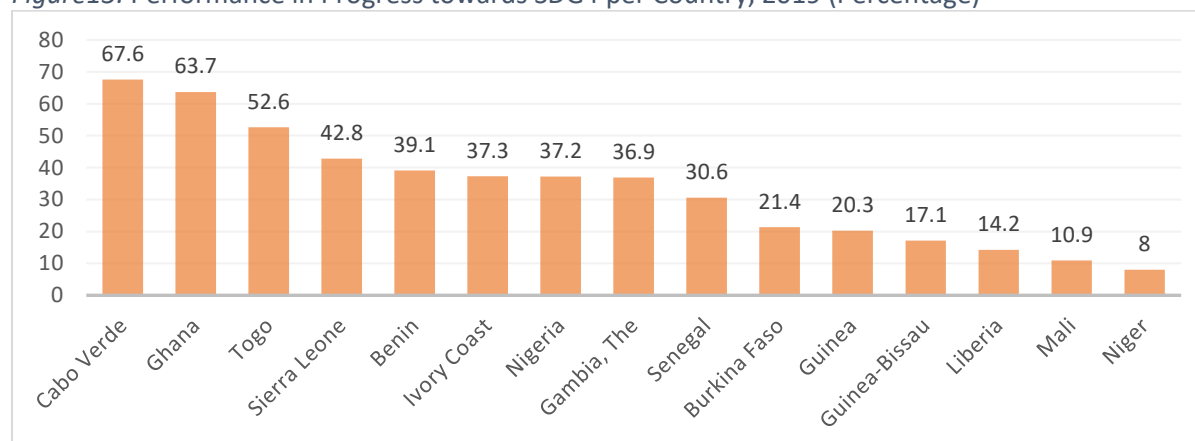


Source: ECA from UNESCO database, 2020

On average, Cape Verde and Ghana are well positioned to achieve MDG4 by 2030, having already covered more than 60% of the way to the target. Togo, which is at 52.6%, could potentially achieve it if reforms and acceleration measures are implemented in the remaining ten years for the implementation of the MDGs. These reforms and measures should address both the supply side by increasing physical accessibility of infrastructure and quality teaching staff and the demand side by increasing household incomes and sensitizing parents to send their children to school and allow them to stay there as long as possible.

Moreover, in addition to the structural challenges of the education system highlighted above, the security situation in the Sahel over the last decade has been a specific counter-performance factor for Sahelian countries. The combined efforts of states, with the support of development partners, are more than urgent in order to curb terrorism and violent extremism that have led to the closure of thousands of schools, particularly in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. These challenges undermine the efforts of countries in the sub-region to achieve MDG4 in particular, and MDGs in general.

Figure13: Performance in Progress towards SDG4 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



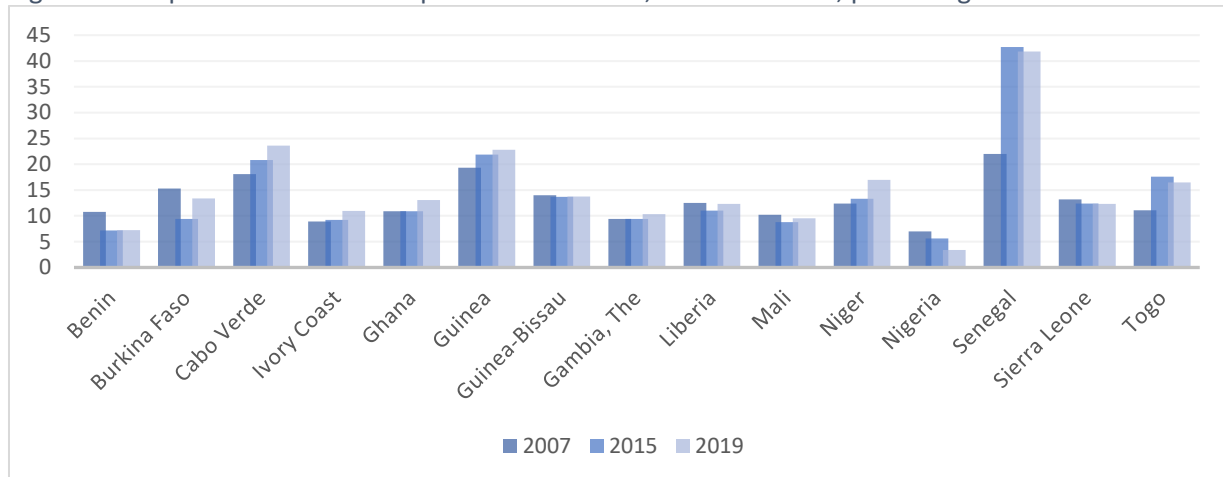
### Goal5: Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls

Despite the persistence of socio-cultural burdens and discriminatory social norms that continue to inhibit the results of public reforms toward improved gender equality and women's empowerment, it is recognized that progress has been made in the region over the past two decades. Fewer girls are being forced into early marriage and more women are sitting in parliaments and in decision-making positions (United Nations, 2019<sup>14</sup>). Furthermore, harmful practices and other forms of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation (FGM), are also targeted in the struggles of governments and civil society organizations for the development of women and girls.

In West Africa, even though its evolution remains volatile, the proportion of women in parliament has steadily increased in seven countries of the sub-region (Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Gambia, Niger, Senegal) with a proportion of more than 20% in 2019 in three countries (Cape Verde, Guinea, Senegal). That favourable trend could intensify in the coming years with regard to the strengthening of democracy and the increasingly active role of women in all areas of economic, social and political development in the sub-region.

<sup>14</sup> [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019\\_French.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019_French.pdf)

Figure14: Proportion of women in parliament in 2007, 2015 and 2019, percentage



Source: ECA from WDI database, World Bank, 2020

Early marriage remains a concern in West Africa; where on average about 36 per cent of girls under age 18 are married, according to UNICEF2018 data. Six countries (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria) are above this regional average, with a maximum of 76.3% in Niger. On the other hand, the phenomenon is less widespread in Cape Verde and Ghana (Figure13).

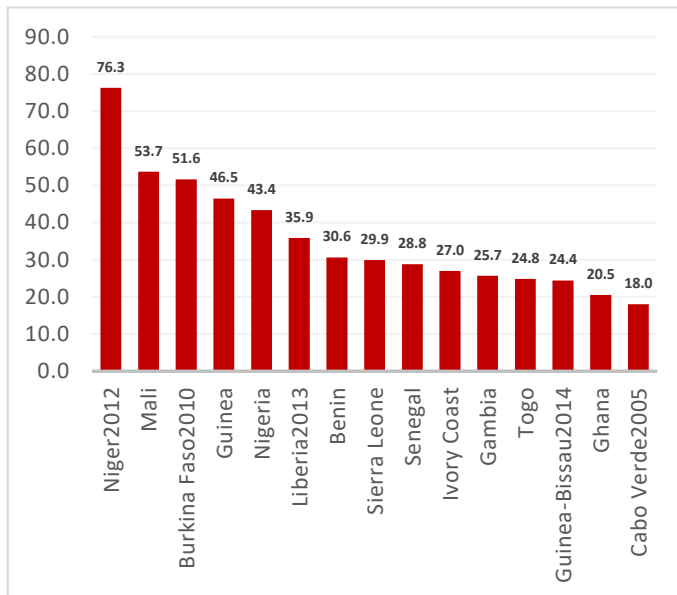
In addition to the phenomenon of child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) is also considered a deeply worrying human rights violation that affects at least 200 million women in the 30 countries where the practice is widespread, half of which are in West Africa (United Nations, 2019)<sup>15</sup>. On average, the prevalence of FGM has declined by about a quarter since 2000, but on average more than 43% of girls and women aged 15-49 reported having undergone FGM in West Africa in 2018. Indeed, about nine out of ten girls/women are reported to have undergone FGM in Guinea, Mali, and Sierra Leone. Up to three out of every four girls/women in Burkina Faso and the Gambia were reported to have undergone FGM. Ghana, Niger, and Togo are the countries in the sub-region where FGM practices are less common (Figure13).

In view of the many initiatives underway in the countries, including the adoption and implementation of policies, laws and action plans with the very active support of national and international civil society actors, we could expect in the coming years a very substantial decrease in these practices that violate the fundamental rights of girls and women.

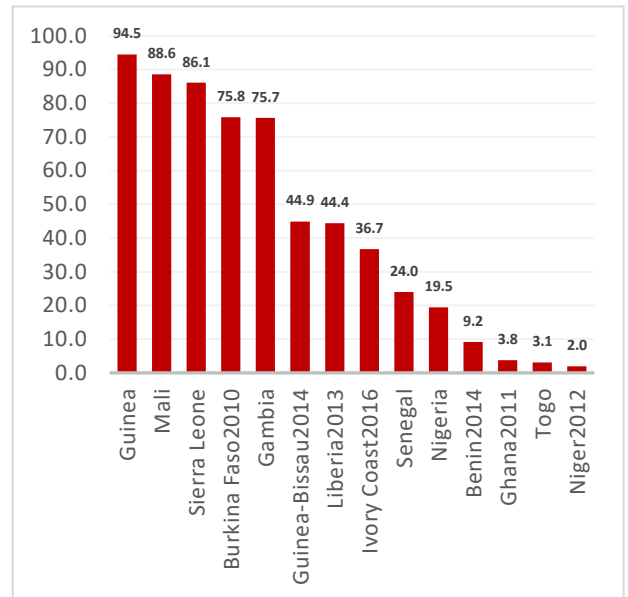
<sup>15</sup>[https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019\\_French.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019_French.pdf)

Figure15: Prevalence rates of child marriage and female genital mutilation in West Africa, percentage

**Prevalence of child marriage, percentage, 2018**



**Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 who have undergone female genital mutilation, 2018, percentage**

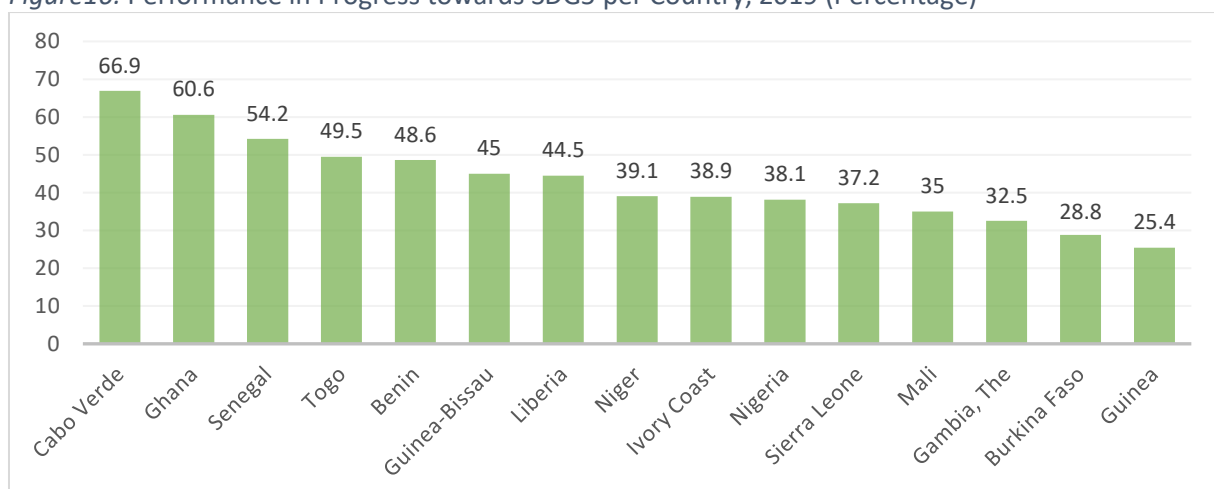


Source: ECA from UNICEF database, 2020.

<https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/>

Overall in the sub-region, Cape Verde and Ghana, with regard to the evolution of aggregate performance, are in a good position to achieve the objective by 2030, since they have already achieved more than 60% of the target. It should be emphasized that this objective is one of those for which a firm commitment on the part of the authorities in the implementation of laws and policies will enable the scaling up within a reasonable period of time. All countries in the sub-region therefore have the same assets and opportunities to achieve very good performance on this objective by 2030.

Figure16: Performance in Progress towards SDG5 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.

## 6 EAU PROPRE ET ASSAINISSEMENT



### Goal6: Ensuring access for all to sustainably managed water supply and sanitation services

The rate of increase in water demand is well beyond population growth, making it more difficult to adapt the public policies implemented by national authorities with the support of their partners. Interventions in the water and sanitation sectors are among the best organized and coordinated and therefore receive the support of several donors and large volumes of financing. While productive efforts have been made by countries over the last decade through the implementation of policies and strategies for drinking water supply and access to sanitation infrastructure in urban areas, the situation in rural areas remains very worrying for the access of populations to a source of drinking water.

In contrast to access to drinking water, where results on the ground are generally satisfactory, the level of access to basic sanitation infrastructure remains very precarious for all populations, in rural areas as well as in urban and peri-urban areas. The situation of the most vulnerable populations (rural women and children, in schools and public places, etc.) concerns all actors in general and those in the sector in particular. The very low provision of basic infrastructure to the sector in the sub-region combined with the very vital nature of water and sanitation for the population was highlighted by the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic in terms of prevention and response capacity.

In fact, the proportion of the population with access to at least one source of drinking water was about 70.0% on average in the sub-region in 2017 compared to 57.4% in 2000. Only eight countries (Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, The Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal) out of the fifteen in the sub-region recorded performance above this sub-regional average in 2017.

In terms of access to basic sanitation infrastructure, although progress has been made since 2000 under the impetus of the MDGs, more than 27% of the population on average still practiced open defecation in West Africa in 2017 (compared to 41.0% in 2000), with higher proportions in Niger (67.8%) and Benin (54.0%). The importance of this phenomenon in the sub-region could be partly explained by the fact that only 29.0% of the population on average (19.4% in 2000) had access to at least basic sanitation in 2017.

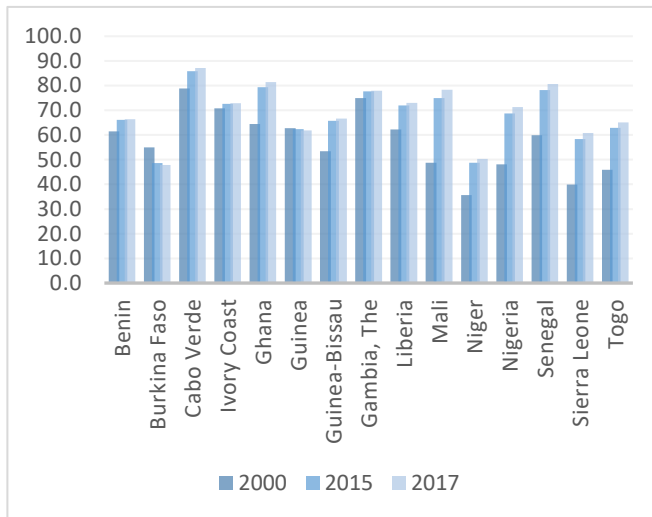
Moreover, only 20% on average of the population in the sub-region had at least one hand-washing facility with soap in 2017 (nearly 11.0% in 2009). Apart from Cape Verde and, to a lesser extent, Ghana and The Gambia, the gap to be filled by the rest of the countries in the sub-region to improve the population's access to basic sanitation services is very large. This is not conducive to



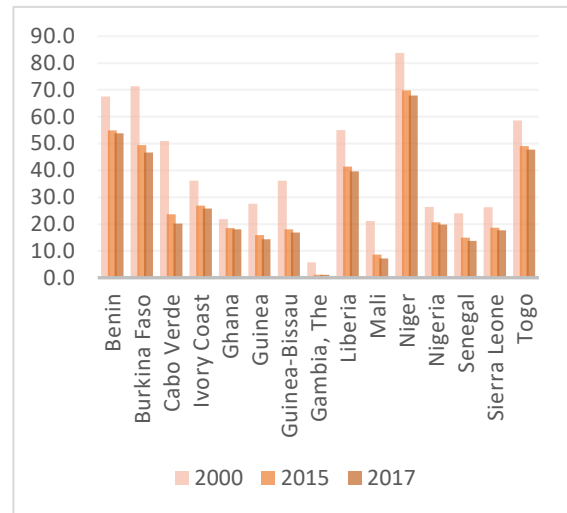
a response to any health crisis such as the Covid-19 and therefore requires innovative initiatives and measures with a broad national scope and significant immediate impacts.

Figure17: Trends in the rate of access to drinking water and sanitation services, percentage of the population

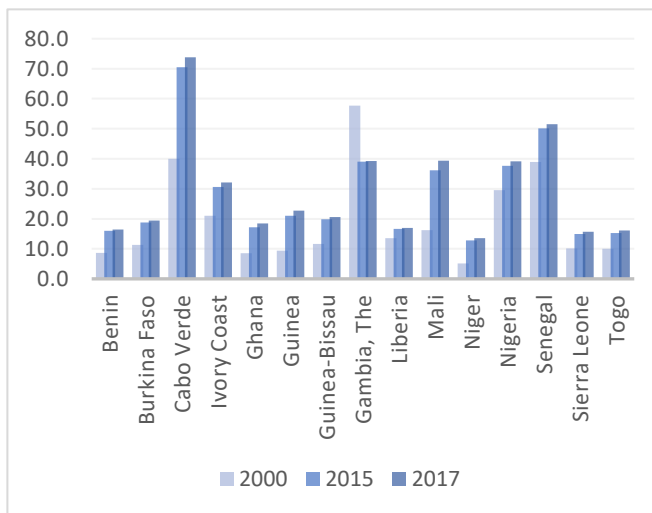
**Rate of access to a source of drinking water, percentage**



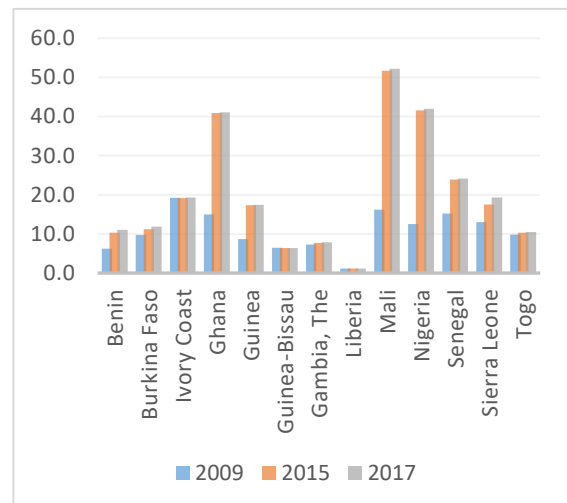
**Open defecation rate, percentage**



**Rate of access to basic sanitation service, percentage**



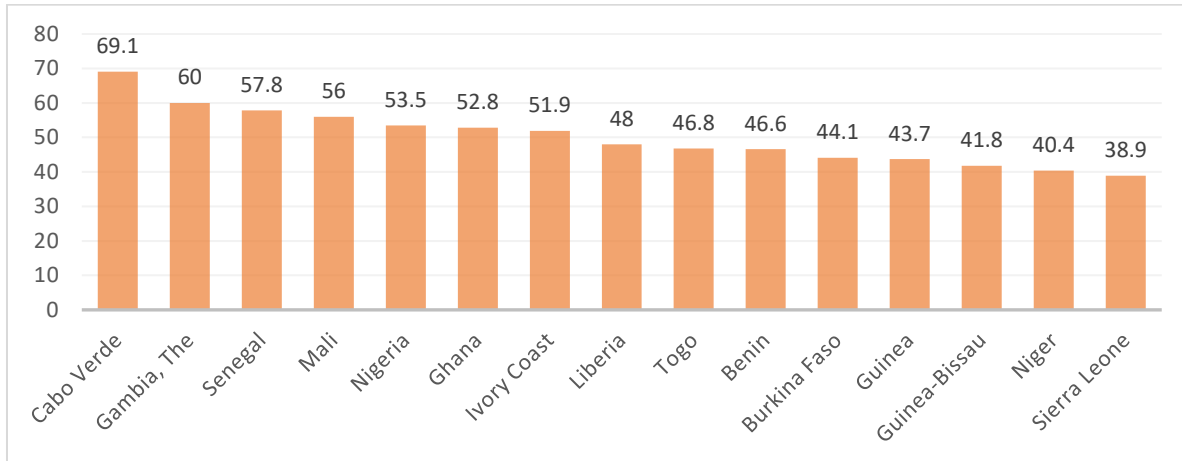
**Hand-washing and soap facility utilization rate, percentage**



Source: ECA from WDI, World Bank, 2020

In terms of the trend in aggregate performance towards achieving MDG 6, there is still a long way to go for all the countries of the sub-region as a whole. In fact, only seven countries out of the fifteen in the sub-region are considered to have covered half the distance towards the ten-year target by 2019. Cape Verde and The Gambia have covered 69% and 60% of the way respectively. But while disparities between rural and urban areas remain significant in terms of access to drinking water, the sanitation deficit is more glaring and worrying in West Africa.

Figure18: Performance in Progress towards SDG6 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



### Goal7: Ensuring access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy services for all at an affordable cost

Despite the persistence of wide rural-urban disparities on the one hand and huge challenges in energy efficiency on the other, access to electricity in the poorest countries is increasing. The promotion of renewable energy is making impressive progress in the electricity sector. However, sustained progress is needed to improve access to clean and safe technologies and fuels, to expand the use of renewable energy beyond the power sector, and to intensify the development of rural electrification that is accessible to the most vulnerable populations (United Nations, 2019)<sup>16</sup>.

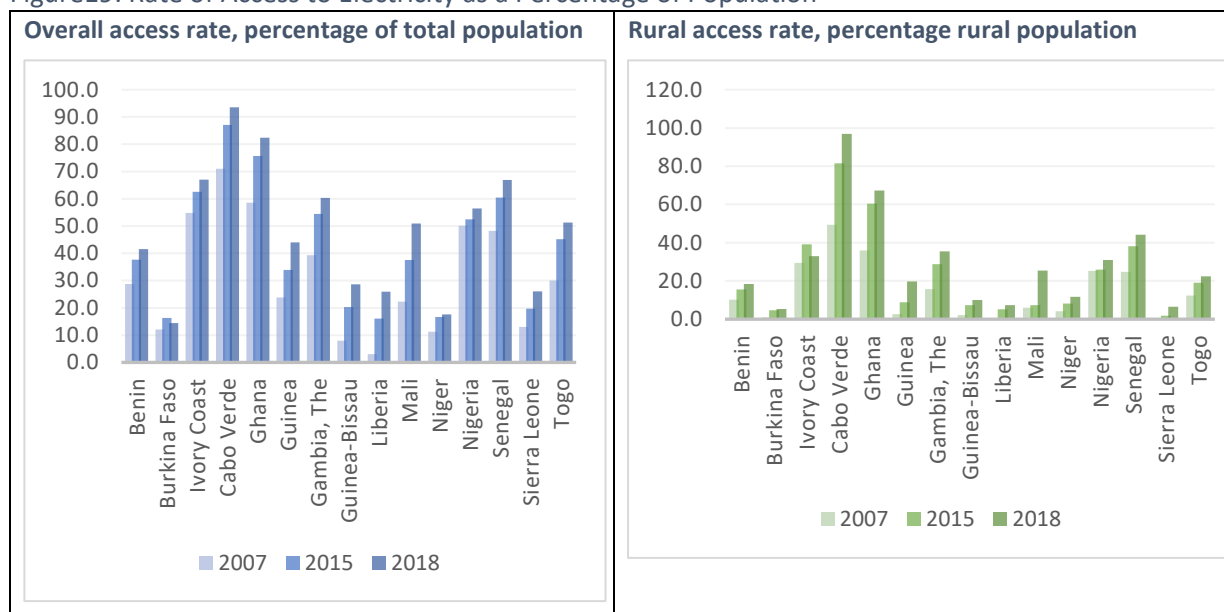
With an average electricity access rate of 48.5% in 2018 (31.6% in 2007), West Africa has substantially improved its population's level of access to electricity, although huge disparities remain between rural (29.0%) and urban (75.2%) areas. Cape Verde (93.6%), Ghana (82.4%) and Senegal (67.0%) are the three countries that lead the sub-region in terms of access to electricity, while five countries (Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone) had less than 30.0% of their populations with access to electricity in 2018 (Figure17). On the other hand, the gap in rural areas is significant although the new dynamism in the implementation of large rural

<sup>16</sup>[https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019\\_French.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019_French.pdf)

electrification programs and the promotion of mini multifunctional electrification platforms for the benefit of the most vulnerable rural households could favourably reverse the trend in the coming years.

It should be emphasized that the slow increase in the access rate is partly due to the slow growth in supply, which is growing much less than demand, which is driven by the high population growth in the sub-region. Moreover, this slow growth in electricity supply is sustained in the sub-region by aging and obsolete facilities, low generating capacity, and poor quality of maintenance service, high losses related to the low reliability of transmission and distribution networks, and energy inefficiency, particularly in consumption patterns. Recurrent load shedding is the immediate consequence of the production deficit, which is the main impediment to industrialization efforts in support of the structural transformation process of the sub-region's economies.

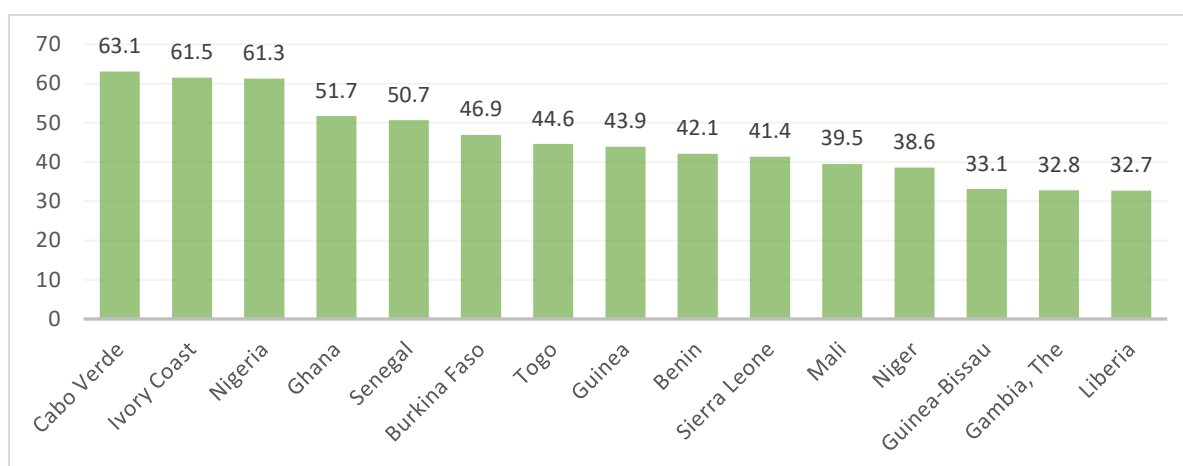
Figure19: Rate of Access to Electricity as a Percentage of Population



Source: ECA from WDI, World Bank, 2020

The aggregate performance assessment shows that the sub-region will have to redouble its efforts in targeting and implementing public policies in order to significantly reduce the energy gap. Intensifying the promotion of rural electrification programs on the one hand and the promotion of multifunctional mini-power platforms, particularly from renewable sources, for the benefit of the most vulnerable rural households on the other hand is a strategy that would make it possible to scale up by 2030. Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal are the group of countries that have already achieved 50% of the way to achieving MDG7 by 2030.

Figure 20: Performance in Progress towards SDG7 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



### Goal8: Promoting sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The study carried out by the ECA (2019), suggests that inclusive and sustainable economic growth is a key factor in development, as it maintains the functionality of public policies by increasing the resources allocated to education, health, household final consumption, transport and water and energy infrastructure.

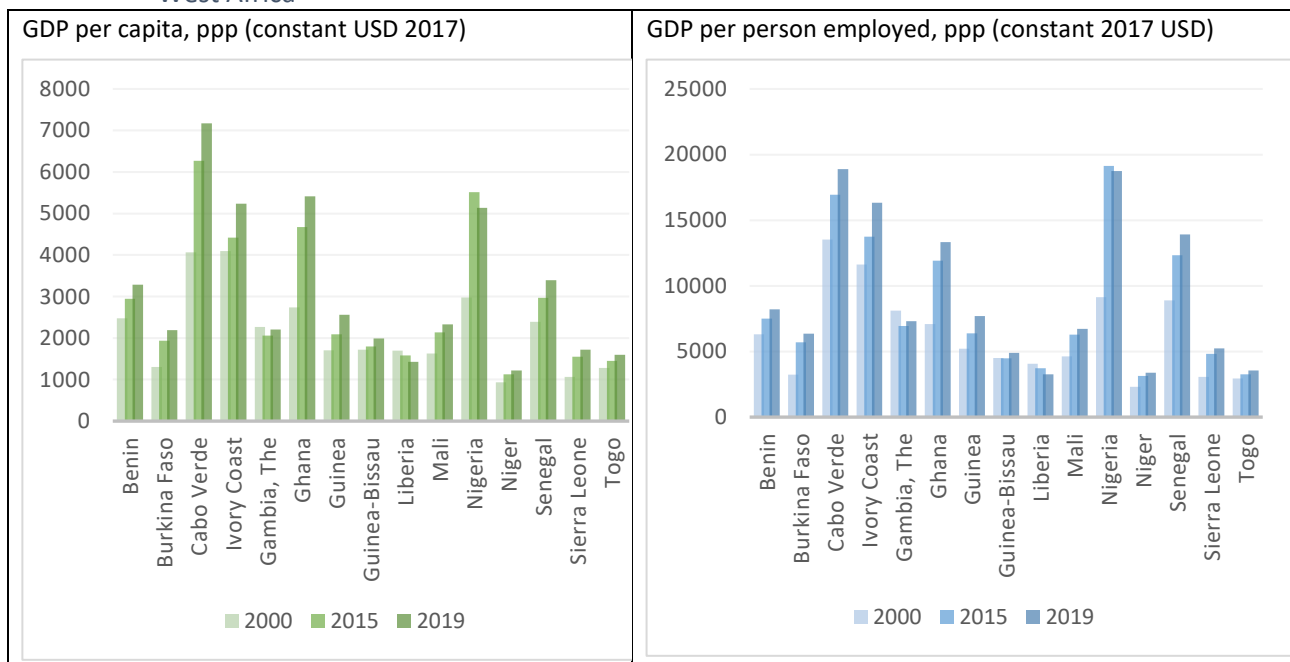
According to available data, constant GDP per capita ppp of 2017 in USD terms is growing substantially within West African countries, and has evolved from just under USD 1,220 in Niger to about USD 7,172 in Cape Verde in 2019. The most significant progress is recorded in Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the decline recorded in Nigeria is partly linked to the decline in oil prices and this decline is expected to worsen for all countries in the sub-region, but would be more significant for countries that are net exporters of oil and tourism services, namely Nigeria and Cape Verde.

Economic growth is particularly important in labour-intensive sectors because it leads to better employment opportunities and increased disposable income. Sustaining economic growth is a challenge, as illustrated in figure 19, for West Africa. The dynamics of economic activities differ from one country to another in the region. However, there are similarities in that the economic activities of countries in the region are predominantly agricultural, characterized by low modernization with relatively very low productivity levels. The sub-region is also characterized by its significant natural resource potential (mining, oil and gas), but its contribution to economic growth and, by ricochet, to improving the living conditions of the population remains very limited, particularly because of its low job creation potential. Thus the trend observed in GDP per capita

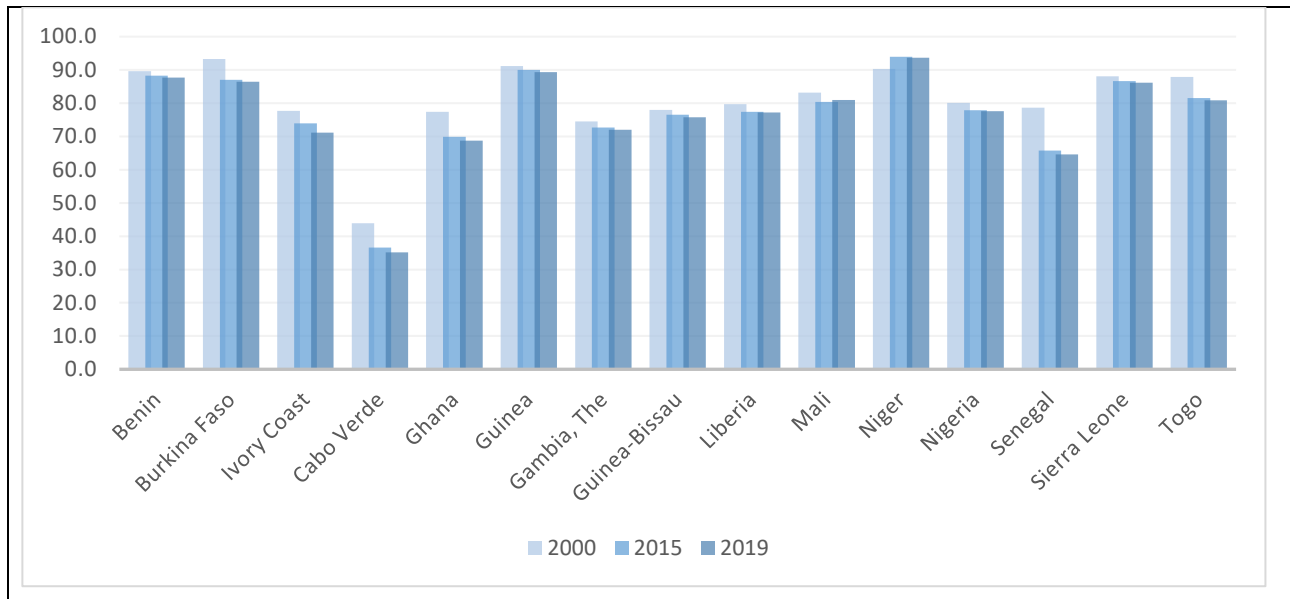
is reflected in the evolution and level of GDP per person employed in purchasing power parity (Figure19).

Moreover, the weight of population dynamics, especially high population growth coupled with relatively high economic and social dependence, is detrimental to efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication in countries of the sub-region. Those efforts to achieve a sustained increase in national and individual wealth over the last two decades could be affected by the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly by the decline in production on the supply side and job losses on the demand side. This situation of job loss, which will lead to an increase in household poverty, would be more destructive in West Africa because of the predominance of vulnerable jobs. The average rate of vulnerable employment in 2019 is estimated at more than 76.0% of total employment. It is estimated at 90.0% in Guinea and Niger.

Figure21: Evolution of GDP per capita, ppp (constant 2017 USD) and vulnerable employment in West Africa



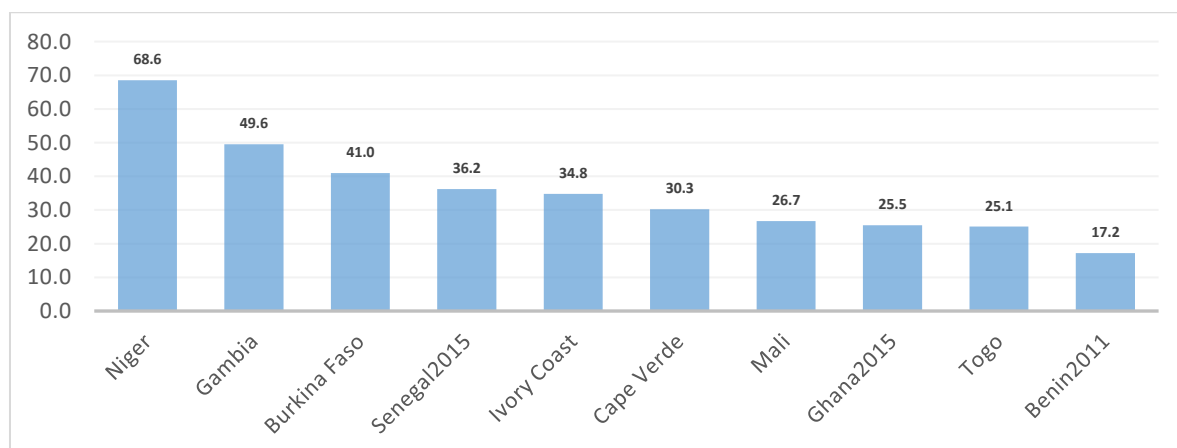
Proportion of Vulnerable Jobs as a Percentage of Total Employment



Source: ECA from the World Development Indicators Database (WDI), World Bank 2020

The counter-effects of high population growth in the sub-region in general and in the Sahel in particular contribute to the precariousness of household living conditions and reduce the effect of economic growth on poverty. This situation of high demographic dependency, low productivity, especially in agriculture, and the predominance of vulnerable jobs in the sub-region, which is detrimental to the creation of sustained and sustainable economic growth that creates decent employment, is associated with a large proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 who are without education, employment or training. This proportion varies among countries and is expected to increase from 17.2% in Benin to 68.6% in Niger in 2018 (Figure20). Over the same period, young women were more than twice as likely as young men to be unemployed or excluded from the labour force and to be out of school or enrolled in a training program.

Figure22: Proportion of Youth Aged 15-24 without Education, Employment, or Training, per Percentage in West Africa

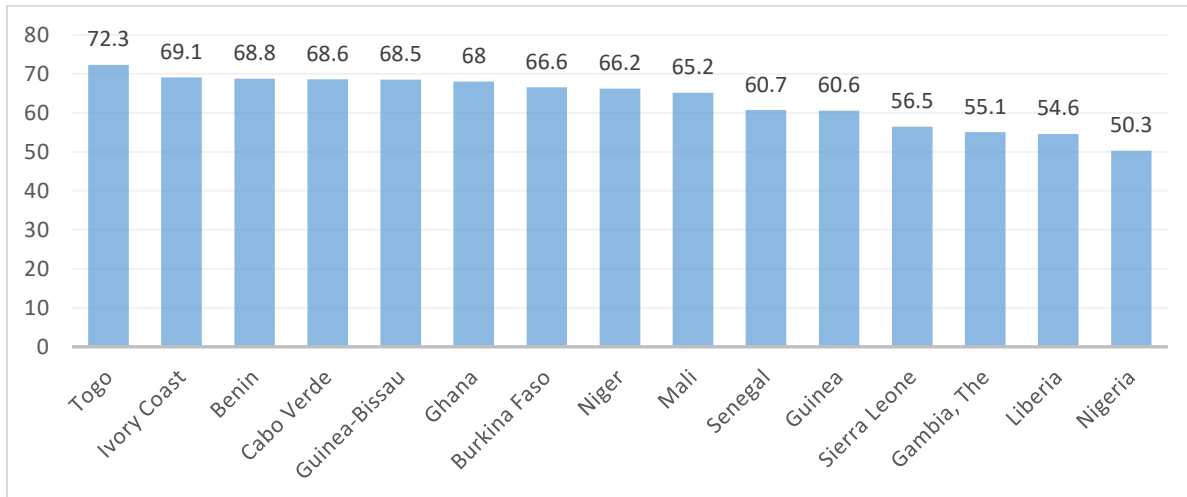


Source: ECA based on ILO estimates, 2020

In sum, analysis of aggregate performance (Figure 21) shows that all countries in the sub-region have made good progress towards achieving MDG 8 by 2030. Ten years before the deadline, 100% of the countries in the sub-region have already made more than 50% of the way towards achieving the target, with nine countries out of the fifteen in the sub-region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape

Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, and Togo) accounting for more than 60% of the distance travelled. Efforts to accelerate and target reforms and public policies during the decade of action will be decisive for the sub-region.

Figure23: Performance in Progress towards SDG8 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.

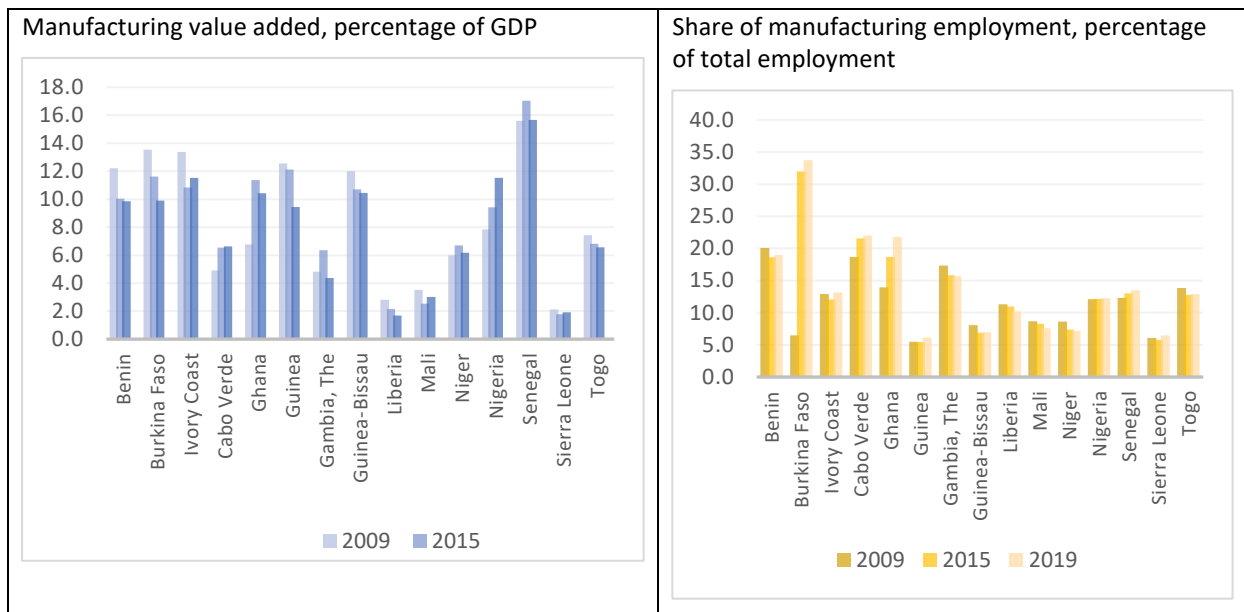


### Goal9: Building a resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization that benefits all and encouraging innovation

The provision of economic infrastructure, especially production and production support infrastructure is the main area in which the region is lagging behind, thus inhibiting the impact of the implementation of reforms and public policies for sustainable and inclusive growth undertaken by the States. In fact, the development of infrastructure to support sustainable industrialization and technological innovation can generate dynamic and competitive economic forces that generate employment and income.

In the sub-region, the share of manufacturing value added declined over the last decade, from 8.4% of GDP in 2009 and 2015 to 7.9% of GDP in 2019. Apart from Nigeria (+3.7 points), Ghana (+3.7 points) and Cape Verde (+1.7 points), which recorded increases over the last decade, the 12 remaining West African countries recorded a substantial decline in the share of manufacturing value added in overall GDP. The largest declines were recorded in Burkina Faso (-3.6 points), Guinea (-3.1 points) and Benin (-2.4 points).

Figure24: Percentage Change in Value Added and Employment in the Manufacturing Sector



Source: ECA from World Bank WDI database and ILO, 2020

The decline in manufacturing output would be more related to slow industrialization in relation to the overall development of the sub-region's economy than to a deindustrialization phenomenon, given that the volume of manufacturing output continued to grow from US\$32.6 billion in 2009 to US\$57.8 billion in 2019, i.e. an overall increase of 77.2% over the period. This downward trend in manufacturing value added is partly explained by the aging of production equipment, weak integration in the productive segments of regional and global value chains, especially for processed products. The counter-performance would be generated by the industrial crisis of the 1980s, the dismantling of protectionist barriers that preserved local infant industries. In addition, there are the conflicts and civil wars that several countries in the sub-region have experienced.

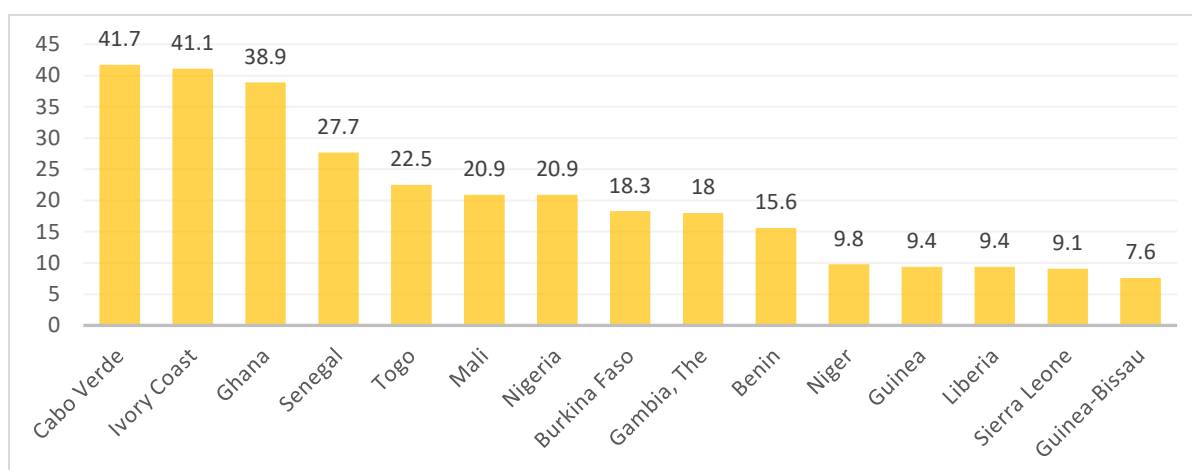
In contrast to the increase in value added, the share of jobs in the manufacturing industry increased from an average of 11.7% in 2009 to almost 14.0% in 2019. The largest increases were recorded in Burkina Faso (+27.2 points), Cape Verde (+3.3 points), Ghana (+7.8 points) and Senegal (+1.2 points).

Reducing the volatility of economic growth in the sub-region will necessarily require reducing the heavy dependence of GDP on agricultural activities, which are, moreover, highly subject to climatic vagaries, especially rainfall. This requires, on the one hand, reducing the high dependence of agricultural production on climatic hazards by promoting water management policies and, on the other hand, strengthening and accelerating the industrialization process with, of course, measures to safeguard and protect local infant industries.

In terms of the average overall performance of countries in the sub-region towards achieving MDG9, no country is in a position to make progress towards its achievement by 2030. In fact, all the countries are less than 50% of the distance already covered towards achieving the objective. However, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana stand out favourably and could boost their overall performance towards achieving the objective if reforms and policies to accelerate the completion of economic infrastructure are implemented during the decade of action.

Figure 25: Performance in Progress towards SDG9 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)





Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



### Goal10: Reducing inequalities within and between countries

Despite the observed downward trend, although the pace of decline remains very slow, inequality persists at varying levels from one country to another in the region in general and in West Africa in particular. Those inequalities, which mainly concern income, access to the labour market, trade and land, and credit as productive capital for women in particular, require reforms and public policies targeted in favour of the most vulnerable.

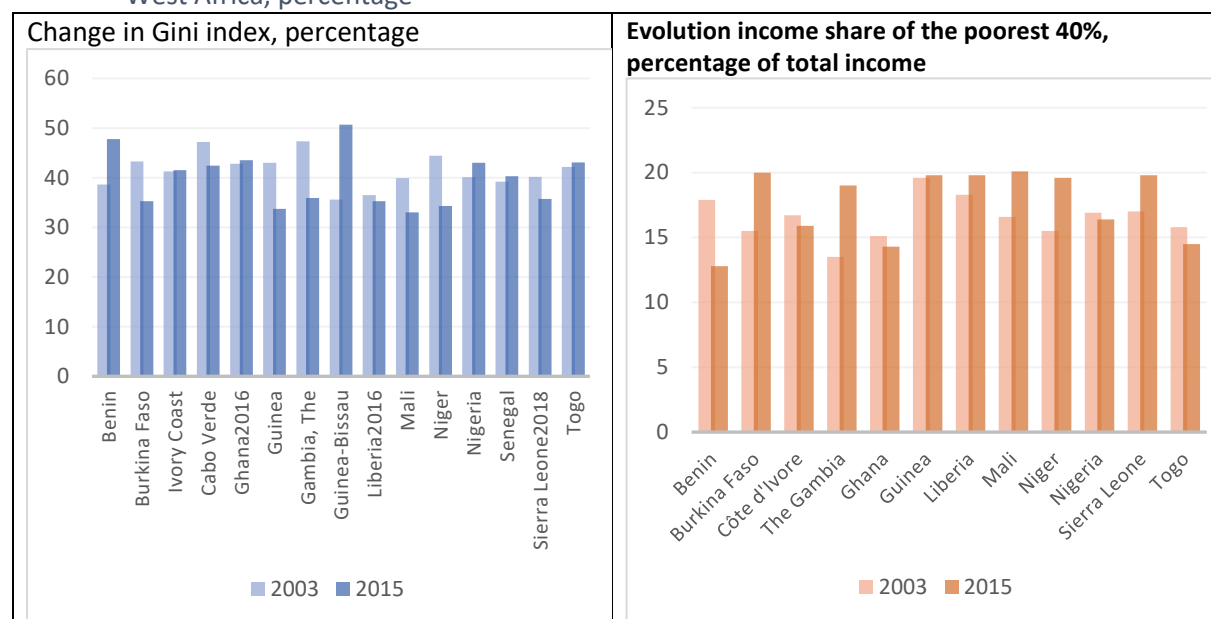
According to the data available, based on World Bank estimates, income inequality in West Africa has decreased overall, as reflected by the e Gini index, which has dropped from an average of 41.4% in 2003 to 39.7% in 2015. However, this aggregate decline conceals significant disparities between countries. They worsened in seven of the fifteen countries in the sub-region, with larger increases in the index in Benin (+9.2 points) and Guinea-Bissau (+15.1 points). The downward trend in income inequality recorded in the sub-region was driven by eight countries with the largest declines in Guinea (-9.3 points), The Gambia (-11.4 points), Niger (-10.1 points) and Mali (-6.9 points).

The downward trend in income inequality recorded in the sub-region is generally reflected in the increase in the income share of the poorest 40% of the population, which rose on average from 16.5% in 2003 to 17.7% in 2015. This increase is also recorded in seven countries whose share of global income is expected to be about 20.0% in 2015. The largest increases are observed in

Burkina Faso (+4.5 points), The Gambia (+5.5 points), Mali (+3.5 points), Niger (+4.1 points) and Sierra Leone (+2.8 points).

The decrease in inequality resulting from economic growth is intrinsically linked to the increase in agricultural GDP, since a 1% increase in agricultural GDP would imply a decrease in inequality of 0.44% compared to a decrease of 0.22% for overall GDP per capita (Mamoudou et al., 2019)<sup>17</sup>.

Figure26: Change in Gini index and income share of the poorest 40 per cent of the population in West Africa, percentage



Source: ECA based on World Bank estimates, WDI, 2020, accessed 17 July 2020

According to available World Bank estimates<sup>18</sup>, officially recorded remittances to low- and middle-income countries reached \$529 billion in 2018, up 9.6 per cent from the record \$483 billion in 2017. In 2019, remittances to low- and middle-income countries are expected to reach \$550 billion (a 4.0% increase over 2018), making them by far the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) and Official Development Assistance (ODA). In addition, it should be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to cause a sharp drop in remittances in 2020 in all regions of the world, mainly through the combined effects of lower wages and the loss of jobs of migrants in their country of residence. According to World Bank estimates<sup>19</sup>, in sub-Saharan Africa this decline would be 23.1% compared to their level in 2019 (World Bank and KNOMAD, 2020).

Moreover, it should be noted that the costs of sending remittances remain high. Indeed, the average cost of sending \$200 was estimated in the first quarter of 2019 to average about 7% of the global amount. This rate would be over 10.0% in Africa, well above the target of 3% by 2030

<sup>17</sup> According to the work of Dimitri and Mamoudou (2019) on the inclusive and sustainable nature of economic growth in the ECOWAS space

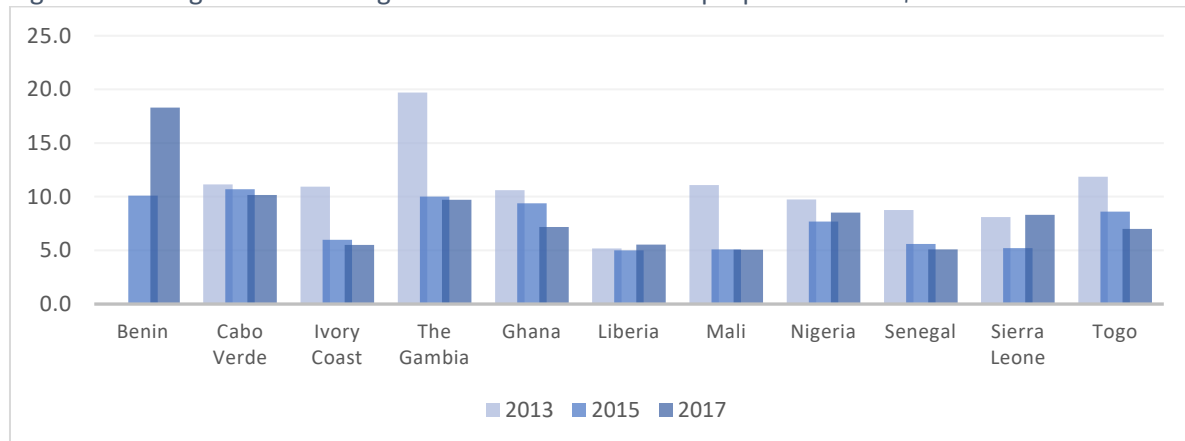
<sup>18</sup> <https://blogs.worldbank.org/peoplemove/data-release-remittances-low-and-middle-income-countries-track-reach-551-billion-2019>

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.knomad.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/R8\\_Migration%26Remittances\\_brief32.pdf](https://www.knomad.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/R8_Migration%26Remittances_brief32.pdf)

for the implementation of SDGs. In West Africa, these costs have globally increased from an average of 7.6% in 2015 to 8.2% in 2017 with peaks in Benin (18.3%), Cape Verde (10.2%) and Gambia (9.7%). The lowest costs are recorded in Côte d'Ivoire (5.5%), Liberia (5.5%), Mali (5.1%) and Senegal (5.1%). However, with the promotion and deepening of new modes of rapid transfers through ICTs, particularly with mobile telephony, the prospects for a decline in the coming years of these costs in the region are more than plausible.

In order to strengthen and concretize this dynamic, countries should put in place effective regulatory frameworks and control mechanisms to avoid the perverse effects, detrimental to development financing, that the transfer of funds through new communication technologies could generate. Such provisions and regulatory frameworks are all the more justified since these resources have become largely significant in relation to FDI and ODA, which have begun to decline over the last five years. Therefore, governments should intensify the level of investment to improve the quality of Internet connectivity infrastructure at the national level in general and in rural areas in particular.

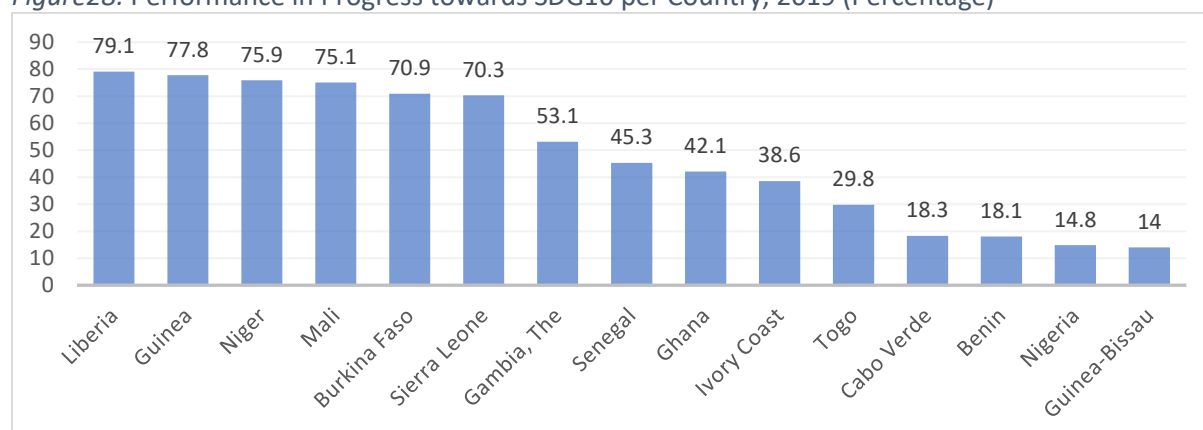
Figure27: Changes in the average cost of remittances as a proportion of US\$200 transferred



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators, July 2020

Analysis of the overall performance of countries in the sub-region towards achieving MDG10 shows that six of the fifteen countries in the sub-region (Liberia, Guinea, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Sierra Leone) are in good position to achieve it by 2030, having already achieved more than 70% of the target. Public reforms and policies during the decade of action should focus, among other things, on intensifying the reduction of all forms of inequality, targeting vulnerable and marginalized groups with greater equity in the redistribution of national wealth. Good governance in the management and reinvestment of resources from natural resource exploitation should be strengthened and intensified.

Figure 28: Performance in Progress towards SDG10 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.

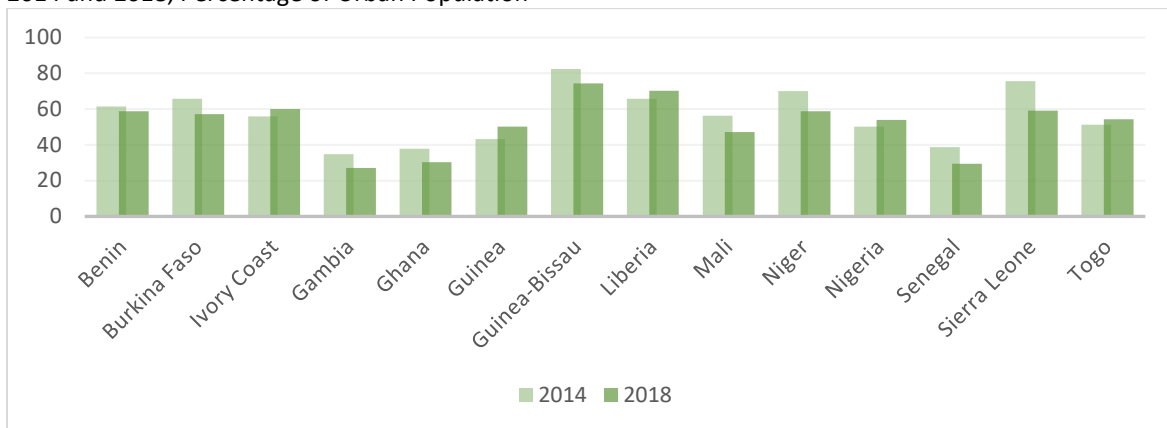


### Goal 11: Ensure that cities and human settlements are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The proportion of the population living in cities has increased significantly over the last two decades. In 2019, nearly 46.0% of the West African population will live in cities (compared to only about 36.0% in 2000). Five of the 15 ECOWAS countries (Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Gambia, and Liberia) will have more than half of their population living in urban areas in 2019. As a result of deficits in the formulation and implementation of public policies, rapid urbanization is generally accompanied by precarious living conditions for urban and peri-urban populations, particularly through an increase in the number of people living in slums, inadequate and overburdened infrastructure and services (transport/mobility, waste collection, water supply and sanitation infrastructure). This is accompanied by increased air pollution and uncontrolled peri-urban expansion. All West African countries have policies and master and urbanization plans, but implementation deficits, particularly in financing, organization, planning, and land management, do not make it possible to combine urbanization with improved access to basic social services.

Moreover, this uncontrolled growth of cities and poorly integrated into national development strategies and plans is accompanied by an increase in the number of people living in precarious neighbourhoods. Despite an overall average decline in the proportion of the population living in slums in West Africa from 56.4% in 2014 to 52.2% in 2018, five countries in the subregion experienced an increase in this proportion over the same period (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo). The largest improvements were recorded in Niger and Sierra Leone.

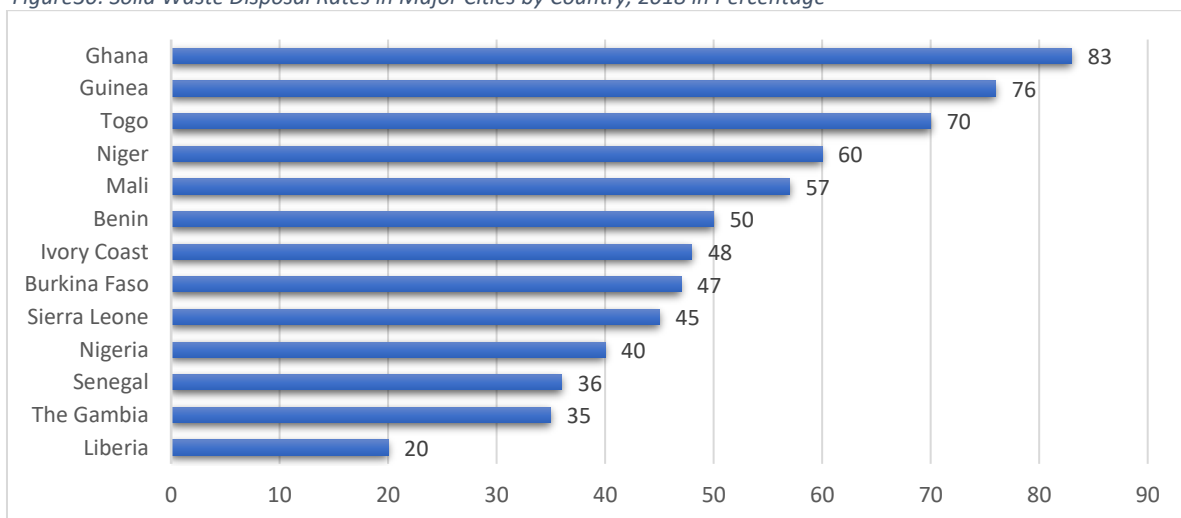
Figure29: Proportion of Urban Population Living in Slums, Informal Settlements, and Inadequate Housing in 2014 and 2018, Percentage of Urban Population



Source: CEA from UNHABITAT data, accessed 13 July 2020

Access to adequate sanitation infrastructure appears to be one of the major and perceptible challenges affecting the living conditions of urban and peri-urban populations in poor countries in general and in West African countries where the sub-region lags far behind. The component relating to household solid waste management and household and reclaimed water management is negatively differentiated. According to a World Bank report (2018) entitled "*What a Waste 2.0*"<sup>20</sup> which analyses the solid waste management problem in several African countries, Ghana maintains a high rate of collection of municipal solid waste (83%) which is much higher than that of several West African countries. As an illustration<sup>21</sup>, the financing of solid waste management systems, particularly in terms of current operating costs and capital investments including collection, transport, treatment and disposal, is only about \$35 per ton in low-income countries compared to more than \$100 per ton in high-income countries, hence the determining factor in the capacity of governments in general and municipalities in particular to mobilize resources and implement public policies in this area.

Figure30: Solid Waste Disposal Rates in Major Cities by Country, 2018 in Percentage



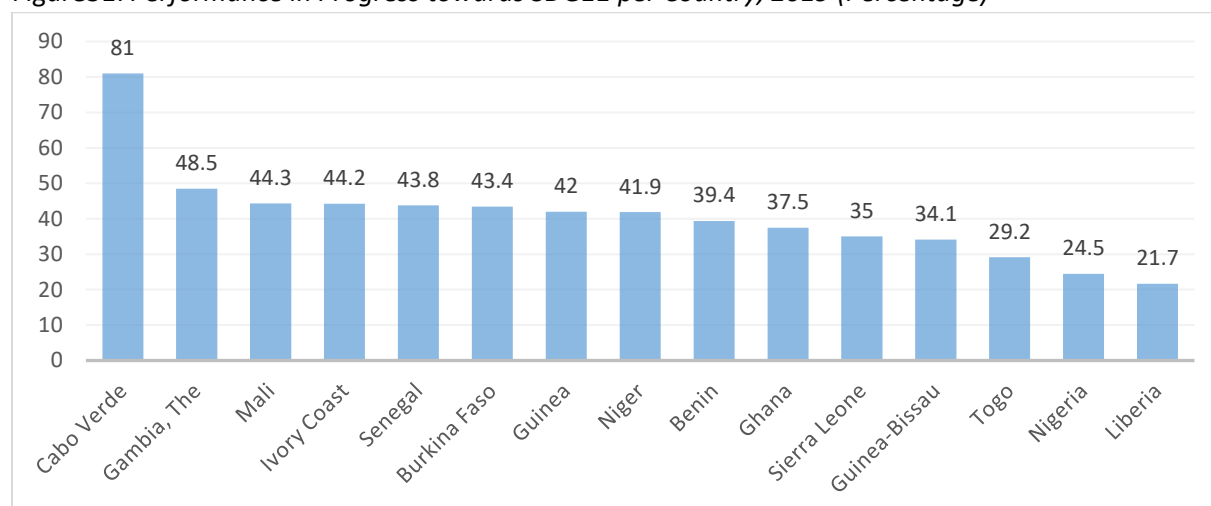
Source: *What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050*

<sup>20</sup>Kaza, Silpa et al., 2018. *What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050. Urban Development Series; Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-1329-0. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO*

<sup>21</sup>[https://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/trends\\_in\\_solid\\_waste\\_management.html](https://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/trends_in_solid_waste_management.html)

In terms of the overall performance of countries in the sub-region towards achieving MDG11, only Cape Verde is in good position towards its achievement by 2030, having already achieved 81% of the target. The rest of the countries in the sub-region are less than 50% of the way. Public and para-public reforms and policies not only in terms of capacity to finance the construction of sanitation infrastructure by municipal governments, but also in terms of waste collection, treatment and recycling capacity will be of paramount importance over the next decade in order to reduce the significant backlog in this area.

Figure31: Performance in Progress towards SDG11 per Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



### Goal12: Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns

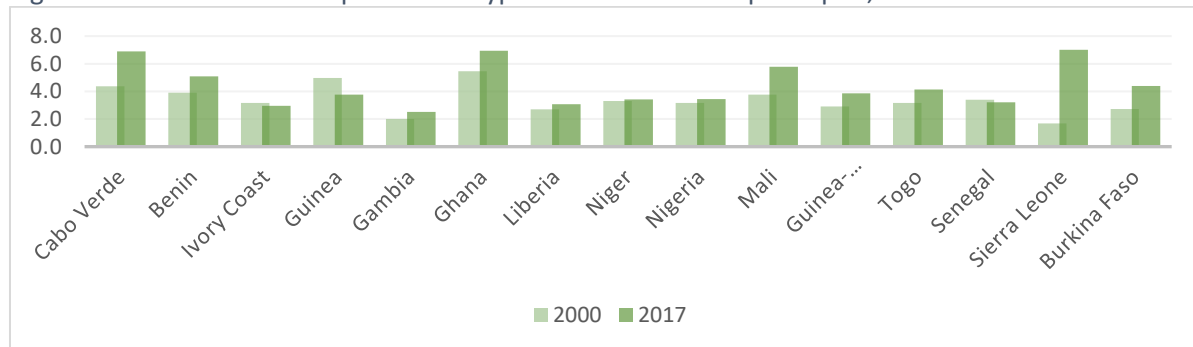
The use of sustainable consumption and production patterns through, among other things, rationalization in the use of finished and intermediate materials/goods is essential to ensure a productive and viable balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) for good synergies without jeopardizing the safeguarding and reconstitution of natural capital and the sustainability of development trajectories (CEA et al., 2018).

In West Africa, analysis of available data shows that the level of domestic consumption of raw materials both in terms of final consumption and intermediate consumption in the production process has increased overall. In fact, the average aggregate quantity of domestic consumption of raw materials per capita has evolved from 3.4 tons in 2000 to 4.4 tons in 2017, an average overall increase of 29.4%. Apart from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Senegal, which recorded a decline,

the twelve remaining countries of the sub-region experienced an increase, with overall growth over the period of more than 50.0% in Cape Verde, Mali and Burkina Faso.

This situation of increased domestic consumption of materials could be explained by increased production inefficiency; the application of environmental standards; the use of non-incentives that promote the non-rational use and recycling deficit of resources; and increasing endogenization in consumption and production, particularly in terms of final and intermediate goods. In addition to the persistence of wasteful consumption patterns, high population growth, industrialization and infrastructure development efforts, including the accelerated urbanization under way in the sub-region, are fuelling this trend of increasing per capita domestic consumption of raw materials.

Figure32: Domestic consumption of all types of raw materials per capita, in tons

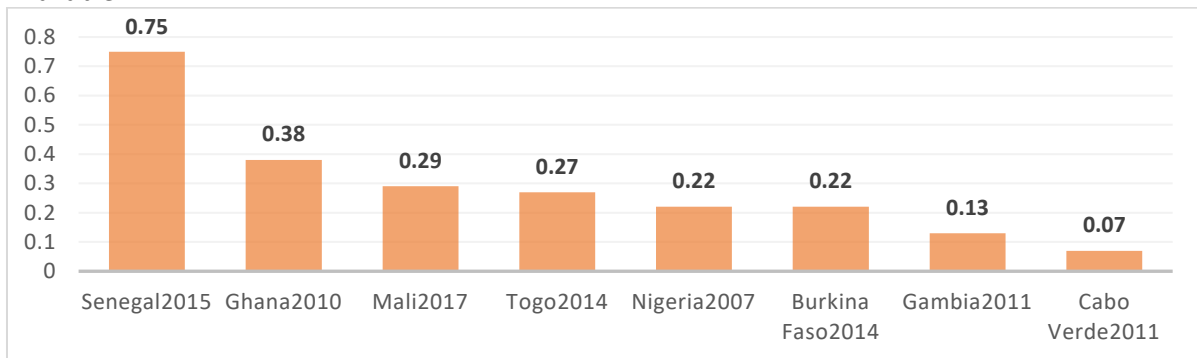


Source: CEA based on SDG database, <http://www.sdg.org/datasets/indicator-12-2-2-domestic-material-consumption-per-capita-by-type-of-raw-material-tonnes-2>, accessed July 16, 2020

Moreover, the situation of non-rational and inefficient use of raw materials in the sub-region is correlated with a low level of financing for research and development, which should contribute to the development and provision of modern and innovative technologies to populations and production systems for greater rationality and efficiency in production and consumption patterns. The available data show that research and development expenditures account for less than 1.0% of GDP in the countries of the sub-region as a whole. Only Senegal spends the equivalent of 0.75% of its GDP on research in 2015. This situation is not only unfavourable to improving productivity, where the region is lagging far behind, but is also unfavourable to promoting efficiency, rationality and modernization of production and consumption modes and techniques.

The Covid-19 pandemic has once again demonstrated to our States the importance of having a minimum endogenous capacity in the development of research and development solutions in general and health science research in particular. This painful factual experience should encourage the States to make the research and development sector a priority in national development instruments and references, particularly in national development strategies and plans.

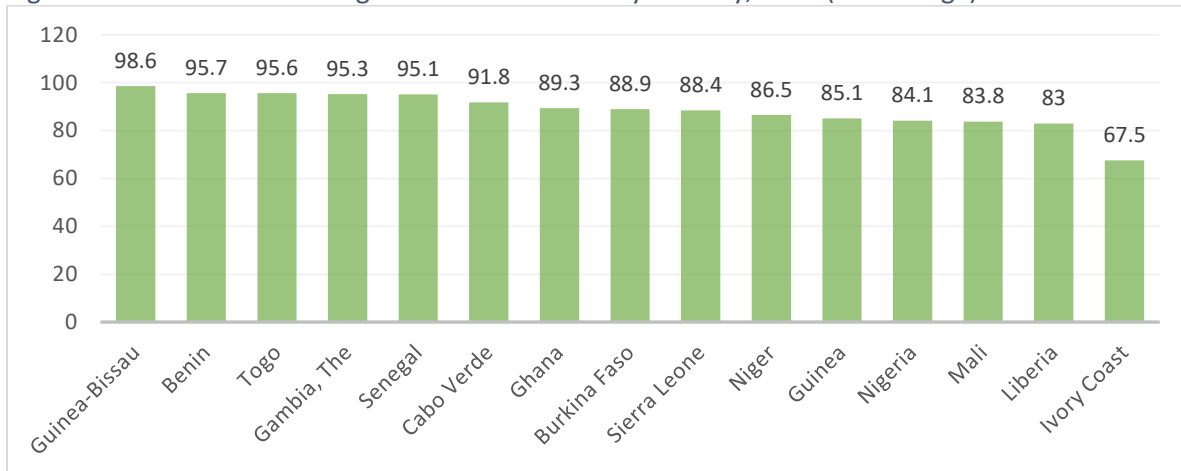
Figure33: Research and Development Expenditures as a Percentage of GDP, Where Data are Available



Source: CEA from SDG database, <http://www.sdg.org/datasets/indicator-12-2-2-domestic-material-consumption-per-capita-by-type-of-raw-material-tonnes-2>, accessed 16 July 2020

In terms of the overall performance of countries in the sub-region towards the achievement of MDG12, almost all countries are in a good position to achieve it by 2030, having already achieved 80.0% of the target. However, demographic dynamics, growing and uncontrolled urbanization with its corollary of precarious living conditions, and the efforts to be made at all costs by industrialized economies are not factors that augur well for a substantial improvement in consumption and production patterns in the sub-region.

Figure34: Performance in Progress towards SDG12 by Country, 2020 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



### Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The lack of data does not allow a quantitative analysis on the evolution of the indicators associated with objective 13 in relation to initiatives and measures against climate change and its impacts. Notwithstanding the lack of statistical data for assessing progress, Goal 13 is one of the



MDGs where countries in the region in general and those in the sub-region in particular have made significant progress towards achieving the various targets. This state of affairs is explained by the fact that most of the targets are qualitative in nature and refer mainly to the existence at the national and regional levels of organizational and regulatory frameworks, reforms and initiatives, and policies and strategies put in place to deal with the effects of climate change.

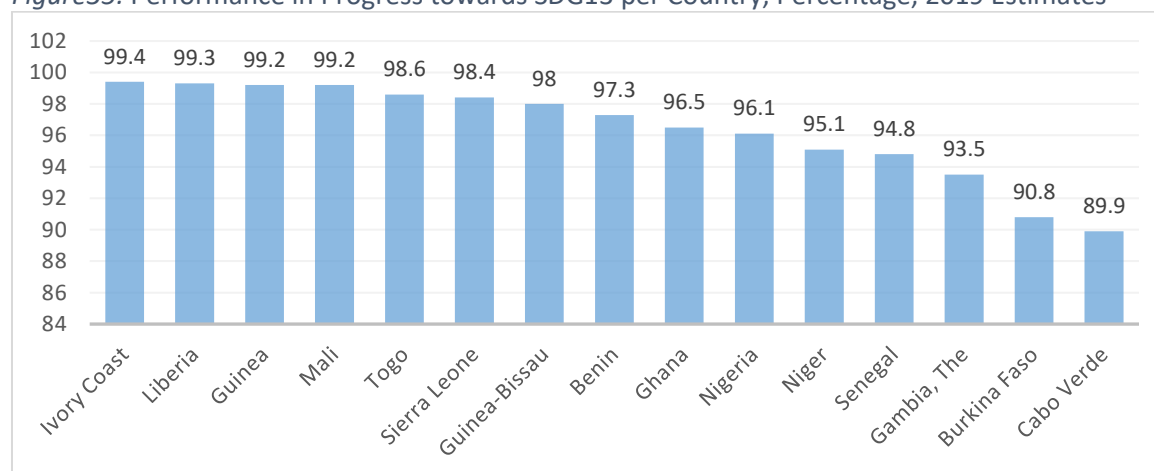
In fact, all countries in the sub-region have developed and are implementing national and local public strategies and programs for disaster risk reduction, particularly in line with the Sendai framework on disaster reduction. All the countries also have strategies for adapting to the effects of climate change with their cross-cutting integration into long-term development visions as well as national development strategies and plans. Those dimensions are also taken into account in the strategies and master plans for spatial management and development of cities and urban areas.

Furthermore, within the framework of the implementation and internalization of the orientations and decisions of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), all the countries of the sub-region have developed, at both the institutional and operational levels, integrated strategies and plans for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change at the national, local and urban levels.

In addition to institutional capacity building, countries are also conducting capacity building activities for national and local experts in integrating climate adaptation into development planning.

Estimation and analysis of the overall performance of countries in the sub-region towards achieving SDG13 shows that SDG13 is the one where all the countries in the sub-region have made the best progress. Thus, all the countries are in a good position to achieve it by 2030, having already made more than 90.0% of the way. Countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Guinea, and Mali have almost reached the target. The decade of action should therefore be devoted to the consolidation and strengthening of results.

*Figure35: Performance in Progress towards SDG13 per Country, Percentage, 2019 Estimates*



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.

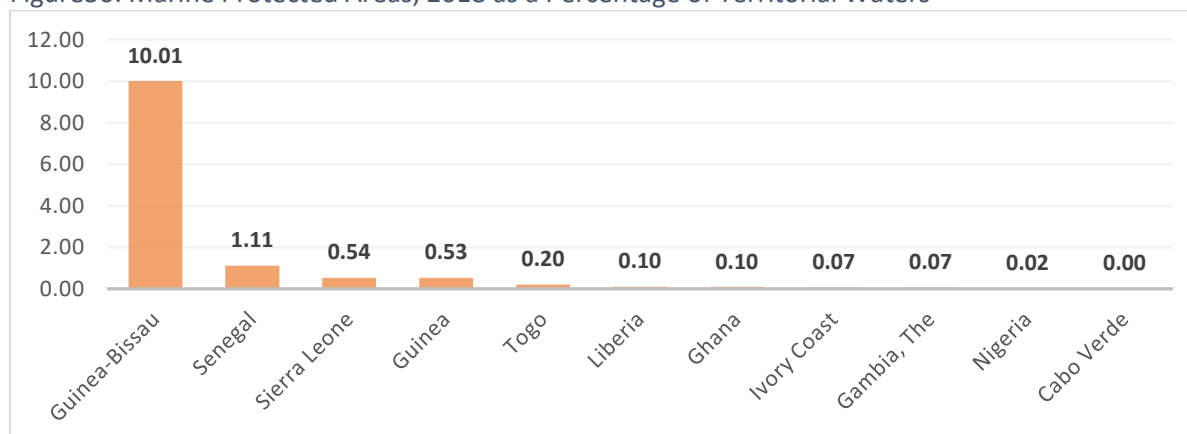


### Goal14: Conserving and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The protection and restoration of protected areas is crucial to sustainable development if they are managed effectively. Globally, 17% of waters under national jurisdiction were protected in 2018 (United Nations, 2019). In West Africa, nearly six out of ten people live in the coastal strip and develop many economic activities, particularly artisanal fishing and tourism, which occupy a central position (IUCN, 2010).

Based on recent statistics available for the sub-region, Guinea-Bissau is the only country that in 2018 recorded the highest proportion of protected areas to marine territory of 10%, 7.0 percentage points below the world average over the same period. Apart from Senegal which was at 1.1%, Sierra Leone and Guinea at 0.53%, the other countries of the sub-region recorded less than 0.5% of their territorial waters in protected areas.

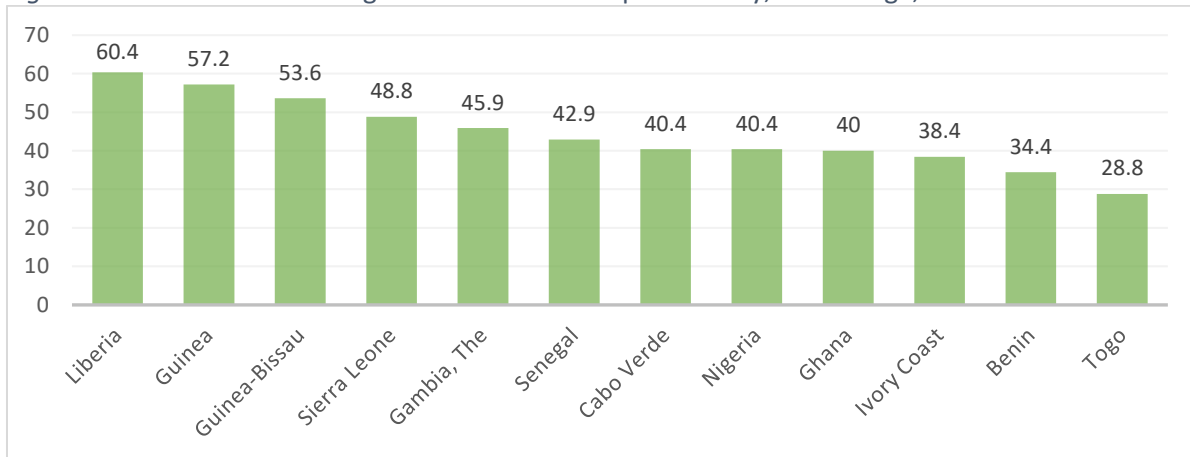
Figure36: Marine Protected Areas, 2018 as a Percentage of Territorial Waters



Source: WDI, consulted 18 July 2020; <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.MRN.PTMR.ZS>

The average aggregate performance of countries in the sub-region on all the targets of the objective shows that no country is in a good position to achieve objective 14 in 2030. Given the prospects for very marginal progress in this area, the margins for improvement in the related indicators in the sub-region over the next ten years are potentially small, although Liberia has made 60.4% of the way towards achieving the goal. To this end, a redoubling of efforts is required to establish new marine protected areas and to strengthen the management of existing ones.

Figure 37: Performance in Progress towards SDG14 per Country, Percentage, 2019 Estimates



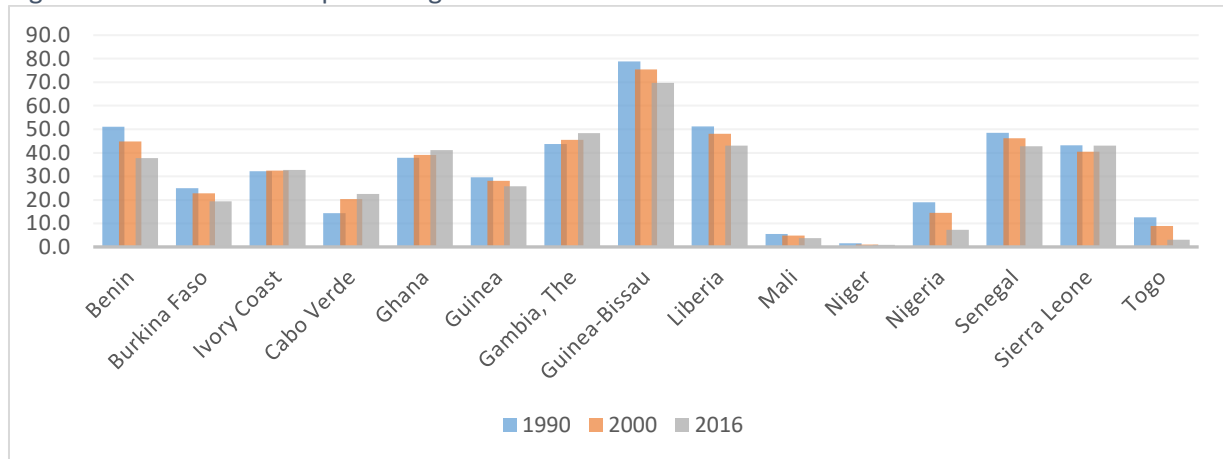
Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



**Goal15: Conserving and restoring terrestrial ecosystems, ensuring sustainable use, managing forests sustainably, combatting desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and halting the loss of biodiversity**

According to the State of the World's Forests 2020 report, the forest cover in West Africa in 2015 is estimated at about 72 million hectares (FAO, 2020) with a deforestation rate four times higher than the global rate. Degradation and deforestation are mainly caused by various factors including, among others, the expansion of agricultural exploitations, accelerated and unsustainable urbanization and illegal logging. These pressure factors on the resource are exacerbated by trans-boundary problems requiring a joint and coordinated governance strategy at the regional level. Indeed, the area of forests as a proportion of total land area has increased from about 33.0% in 1990 to 29.4% in 2016 with significant levels of degradation and deforestation recorded in Benin (-13.3 percentage points) and Nigeria (-11.7 percentage points). However, Côte d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, Ghana and The Gambia have, through reforestation and protection actions, increased their forest heritage over the period.

Figure38: Forest area as a percentage of total land area

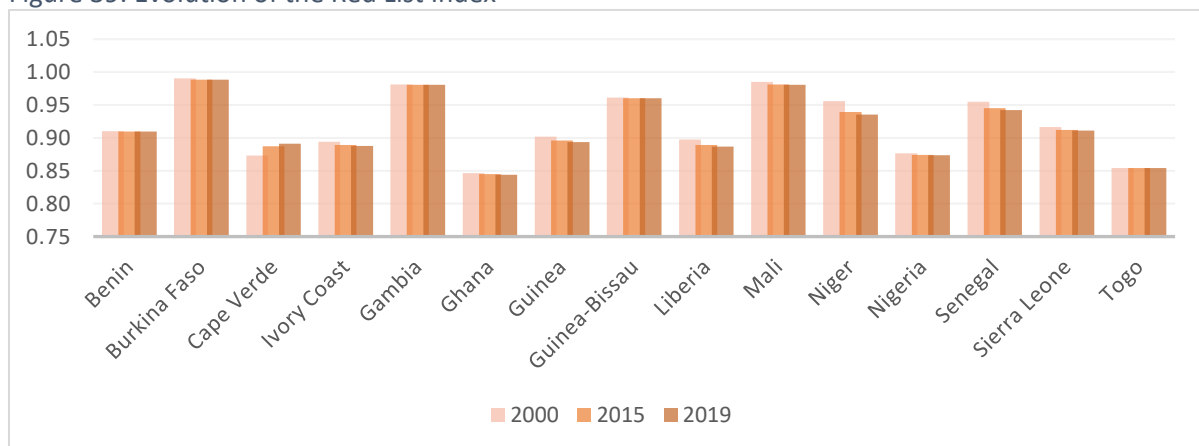


Source: ECA from World Bank WDI data, accessed July 18, 2020

In West Africa, all the countries present a moderate risk of extinction of their rich biodiversity. According to the statistics presenting the status of ILR in 2018, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Senegal present a more moderate situation with Cape Verde recording the highest rate of extinction. Conversely, countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Togo show acceleration in the rate of extinction of a significant number of the composition of their wildlife and floral biodiversity.

In addition, factors related to pressure from unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, invasive alien species, poaching and wildlife trafficking continue to increase the risk of extinction of the sub-region's rich biodiversity. Indeed, according to the 2019 Red List Index (RLI) status, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Senegal have a more moderate extinction status while Cape Verde has the highest rate of extinction. However, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Niger are experiencing an accelerated extinction trend of their wildlife and floral biodiversity.

Figure 39: Evolution of the Red List Index



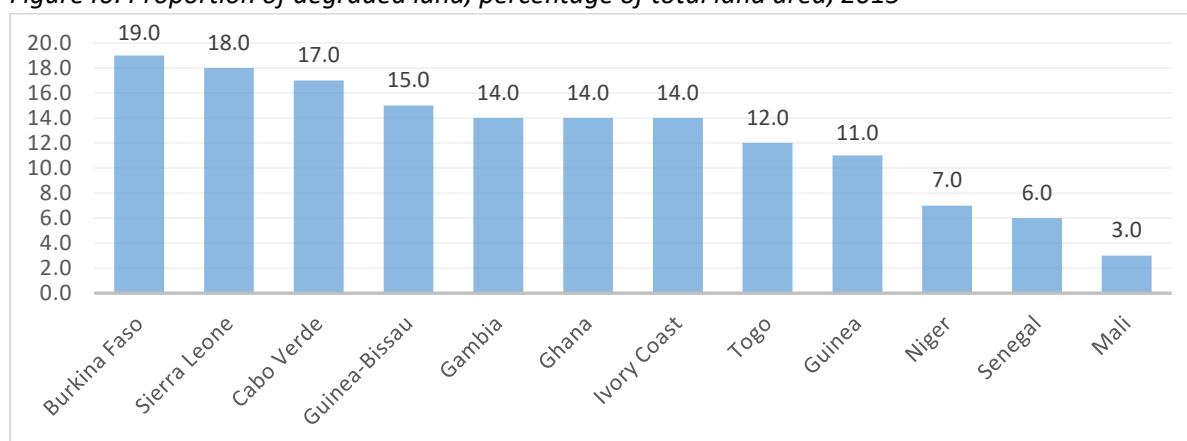
Source: CEA from Our World in data, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/red-list-index>, accessed July 18, 2020

In addition to the phenomenon of deforestation and the accelerated extinction of wildlife and floral biodiversity, the situation of land degradation is one of the major concerns threatening sustainable development and the survival of future generations. Considered as the main natural

capital of production and constitution of the living environment and survival of populations, the persistence of the effects of climate change, unsustainable agricultural practices and various erosion effects constitute, among others, the major sources of land degradation. In the West African sub-region, the Sahelian countries, although mainly pastoral, are the most exposed to the risks and factors of land degradation and impoverishment, due not only to the unsustainable consumption and production activities of the populations, but also to the specific unfavourable natural conditions of the Sahel.

In fact, in 2015 on average 17.6% of the total land area of West Africa is degraded against an average of 20.0% at the global level. Although lower than the world average, the pace and level of degradation remains worrying. Nine out of the fifteen countries in the sub-region had more than 10.0% of their total land area in a state of degradation in 2015, with the immediate results of low agricultural productivity performance and recurrent food insecurity in several countries of the sub-region due to the combined effects of drought.

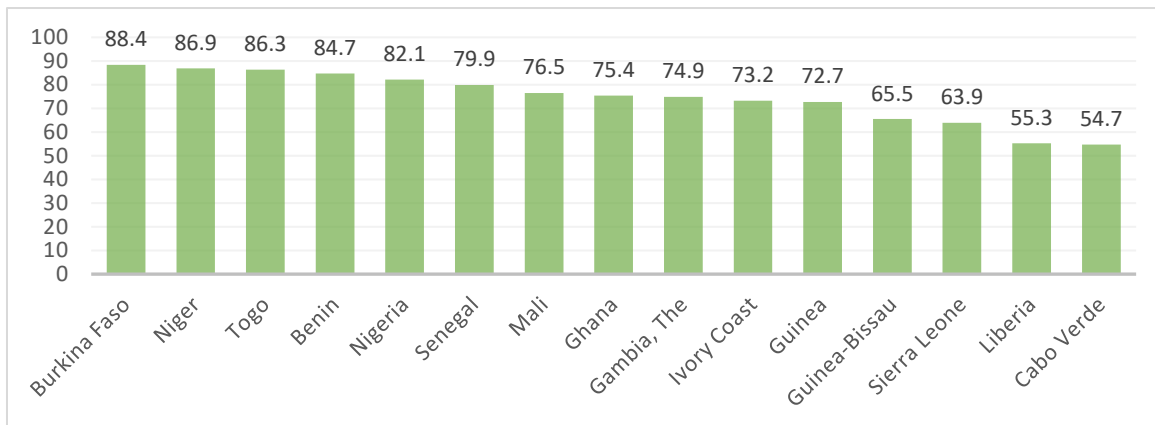
Figure 40: Proportion of degraded land, percentage of total land area, 2015



Source: ECA based on data from the UNDESA database for monitoring SDGs, consulted on July 18, 2020.

A review of the aggregate performance of countries in the sub-region shows that, ten years before the deadline, five countries in the sub-region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo) have made more than 80.0% of the way towards achieving SDG15. This level of performance might seem encouraging to hope for the achievement of the target, but the profile of the sub-region in terms of efforts in initiatives and reforms for the preservation and sustainable restoration of the Earth's ecosystem shows that the margins for progress in the coming years are very small; hence the need for a vigorous burst of change in the implementation of initiatives and public policies in this area.

Figure 41: Performance in Progress towards SDG15 per Country, Percentage, 2019 Estimates



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



### Goal16. Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all and developing effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

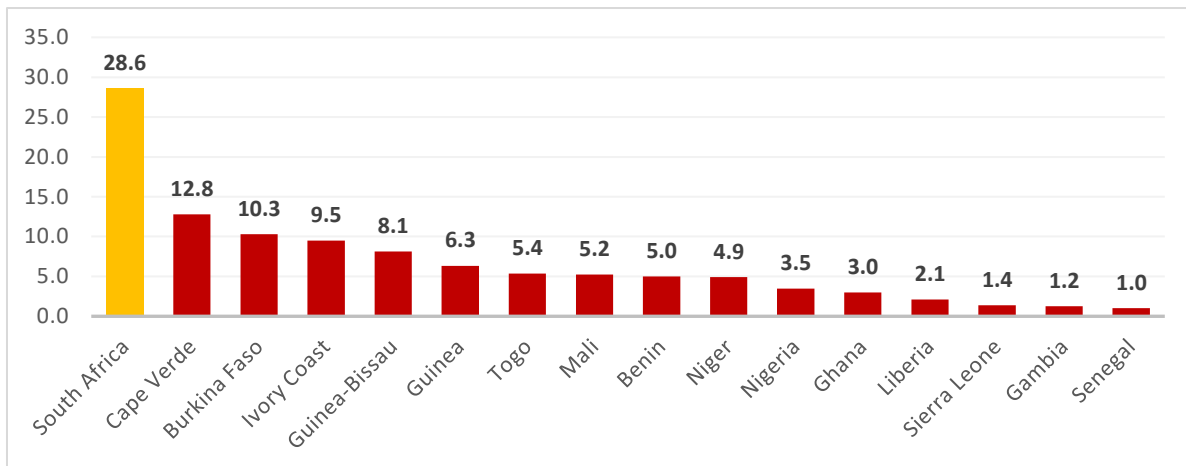
According to the UNODC<sup>22</sup> 2019 report, homicides kill many more people than armed conflict. Indeed, in 2017 approximately 464 thousand people worldwide were killed by homicide compared to 89 thousand by armed conflict (UNODC, 2019). Furthermore, according to Maurice Cusson et al (2017)<sup>23</sup> in their report entitled "One Thousand Homicides in West Africa", Africa, with a homicide rate of 12.5 per 100,000 inhabitants, is considered the second region in the world to record the highest rate of intentional homicide after South America with 23.0 per 100,000 inhabitants. However, on a continental scale, South Africa has the highest homicide rate.

In West Africa, although the magnitude of the phenomenon is less than the continental average of 12.5 intentional homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2017, the trend towards a deterioration of the security situation, particularly in the Sahel, with the exacerbation of acts of terrorism and extreme violence does not bode well for the future in the absence of urgent action. Cape Verde (12.8 per 100,000 inhabitants) has a rate above the continental average, although in absolute terms, other countries in the sub-region (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea) have higher numbers of cases.

Figure42: Number of intentional homicide victims per 100,000 populations in 2017

<sup>22</sup><https://www.unodc.org/unodc/fr/frontpage/2019/July/homicide-kills-far-more-people-than-armed-conflict--says-new-unodc-study.html>

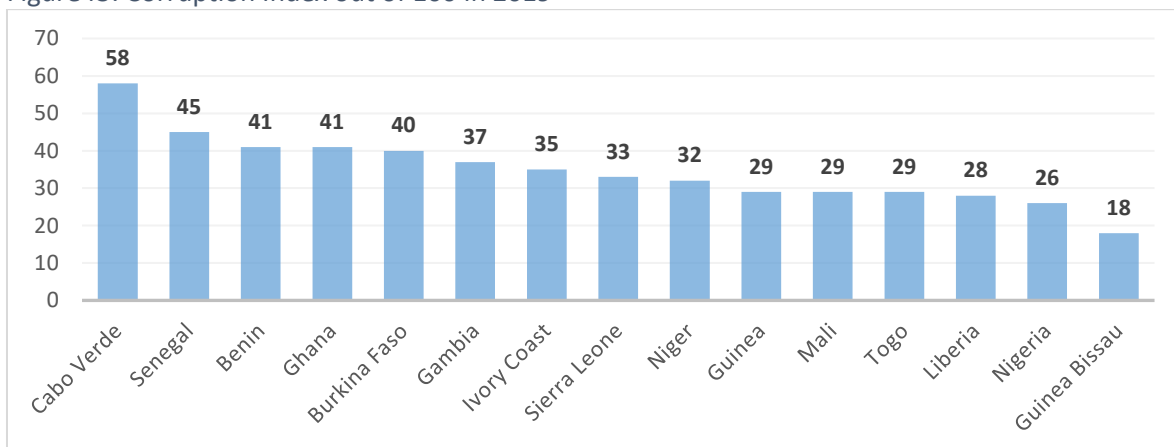
<sup>23</sup><https://pum.umontreal.ca/catalogue/mille-homicides-en-afrique-de-louest>, accessed April 5, 2019



Source: CEA from <https://ourworldindata.org/homicides>

With regard to the state of governance, the phenomenon of poor governance remains a sustainable development concern. The results expected from the implementation of public policies are in some places inhibited by the inefficiency of public services, the lack of equitable access to justice for all, and corruption in all segments of the administration, including in the governance of public finance, whose destructive effects on development are enormous. According to the publication of the Transparency International Corruption Index, only Cape Verde could be qualified as a moderate situation of bad corruption with an index of 58.0 out of 100. Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria are at the bottom of the good governance performance scale. However, the drive to strengthen the institutional and operational framework for governance in general and corruption in particular in all countries of the sub-region could eventually reverse the situation for more effective public policies.

Figure43: Corruption Index out of 100 in 2019

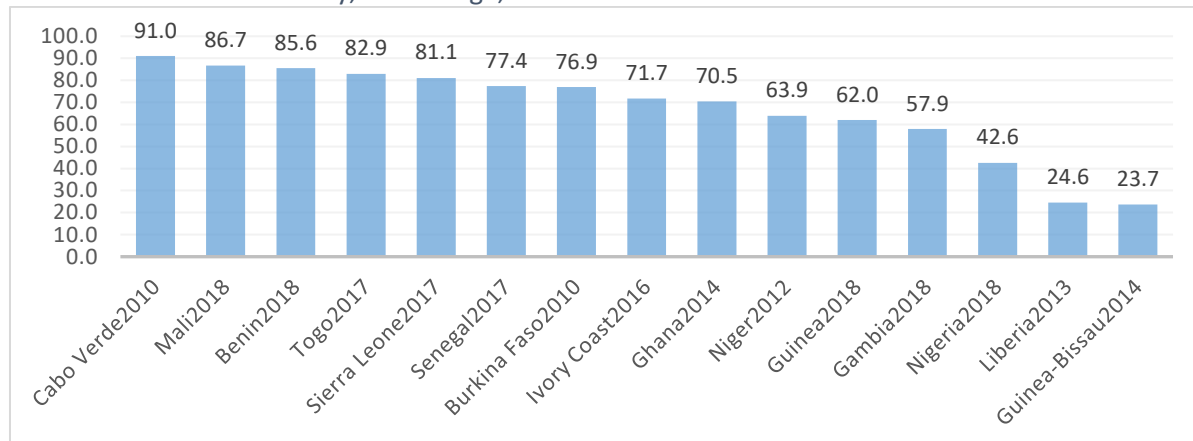


Source: CEA from <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2019#>

According to the 2019 report on monitoring progress of sustainable development in West Africa (ECA, 2020), a child who is not registered by a civil registration authority is considered the worst form of social exclusion insofar as these children are considered stateless and therefore excluded from access to basic vital social services (health and education), and therefore could not claim to have the chance to build a better future like other children.

Indeed, in West Africa, on average nearly 33.0% of children below 5 years of age will not have a birth certificate in 2018 (compared to about 35% in 2015). In other words, the existence of 33% of children below 5 years of age is ignored by the State and therefore absent from civil registers. The phenomenon exceeds 50.0% of children below 5 years of age in Niger, Liberia and Guinea-Bissau. This basic deficit in human rights in general and children's rights in particular deserves urgent action on the part of States, particularly in terms of strengthening and modernizing the civil registration system by seizing the opportunity of digitalization to quickly close the gap.

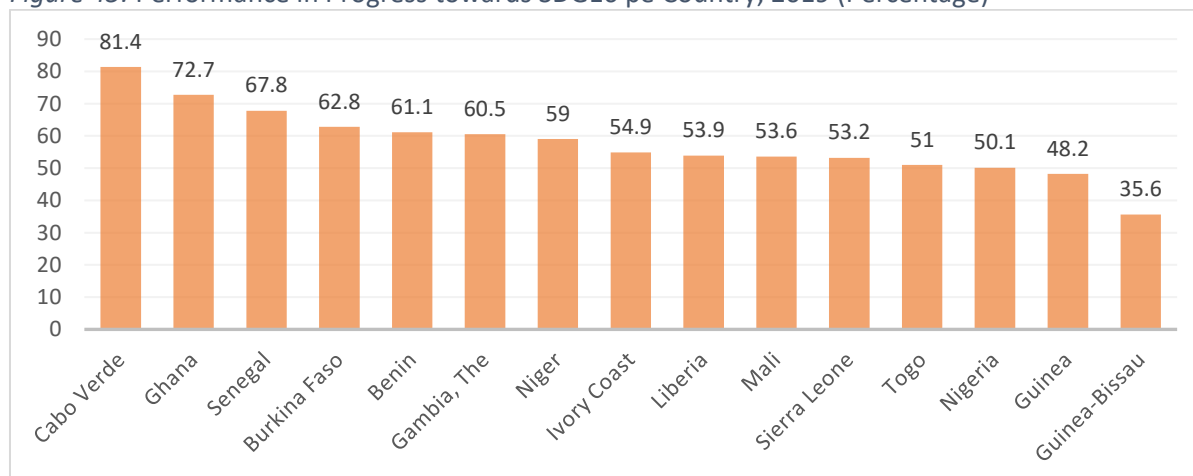
Figure44: Proportion of Children below 5 Years of Age Who Have Been Registered by a Vital Statistics Authority, Percentage, 2018



Source: ECA from UNICEF database, [www.data.unicef.org](http://www.data.unicef.org)

Overall, Cape Verde and to a lesser extent Ghana is well positioned to record good aggregate performance towards achieving SDG16. Reforms and interventions during the decade of action should focus on improving the state of internal and national security, combating violent extremism, strengthening social cohesion and living together, good governance, particularly in its economic, political, and administrative dimensions, and respect for human rights. A more effective involvement of the international community in restoring peace and security in the Sahel through the eradication of terrorism is strongly expected.

Figure 45: Performance in Progress towards SDG16 pe Country, 2019 (Percentage)



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.



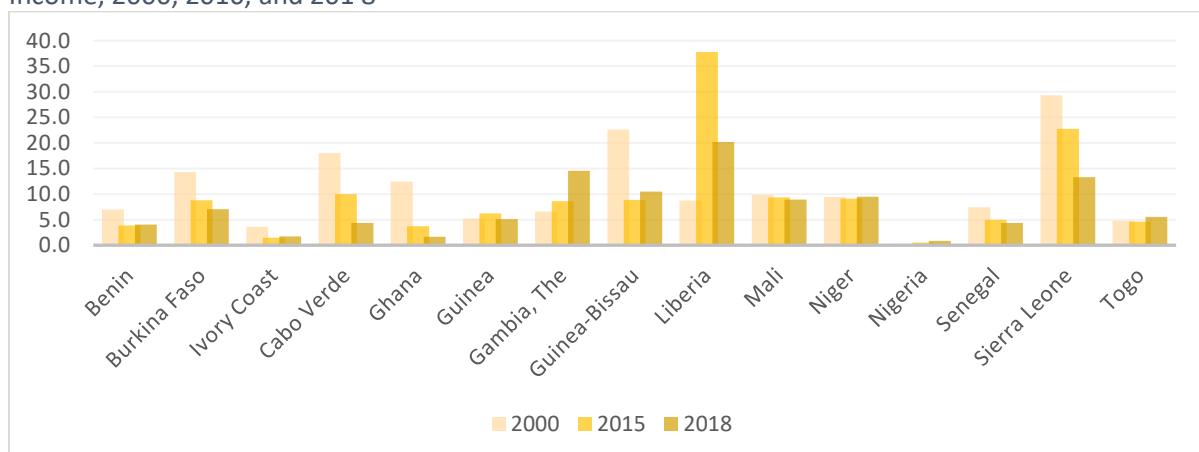


### Goal17. Strengthening the capacity to implement the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and revitalizing it

According to OECD estimates<sup>24</sup>, of the 30 member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Official Development Assistance (ODA) decreased by 2.7% in 2018 compared to 2017. Despite the continued downward trend in ODA that began in 2010, ODA remains the main source of financing for development assistance, particularly in West Africa. In addition, ODA accounts for a significant share of government budgets and about 70.0 per cent of the external financing of the least developed countries.

The net flow of official development assistance received by West Africa fell further in 2018 to an average of 7.9% of GNI and 9.4% in 2015. This downward trend is partly sustained by the succession of economic and financial crises in donor countries starting with the international financial crisis of 2008-2009. This decline is expected to worsen in 2020 due in part to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has greatly disrupted the economic and social development fundamentals of all donor countries. Apart from the Gambia, the 14 other countries in the sub-region are experiencing a steady decline in ODA received; hence the need for States to move resolutely toward financing development through domestic resources and better regulation of migrant remittances, which exceeded ODA in 2018.

Figure46: Net Official Development Assistance Received as a Percentage of Gross National Income, 2000, 2016, and 2018



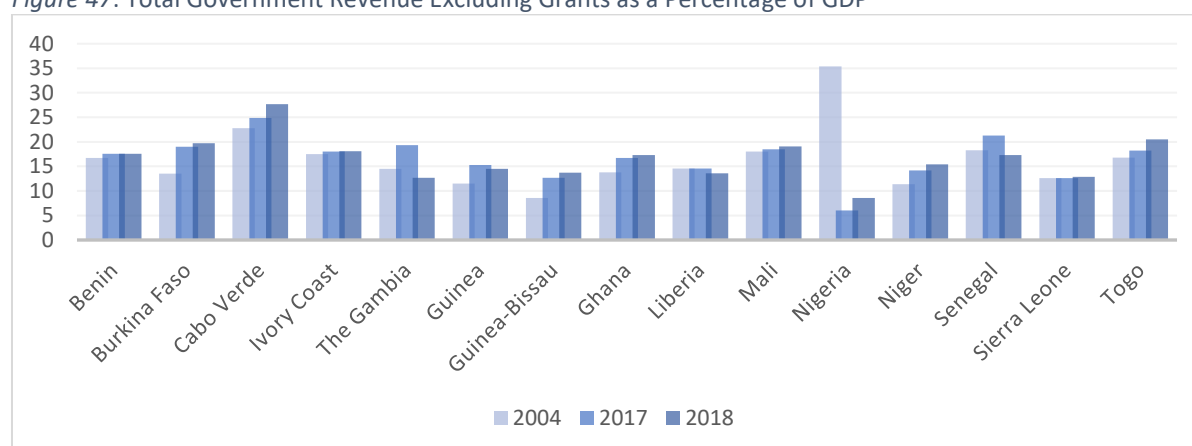
Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators, 2020, accessed July 19, 2020

The willingness and commitment of states to finance development from internal resources is confronted with factors of underperformance in mobilization capacities related to the

<sup>24</sup><http://oe.cd/fsd-data>

predominance of the informal sector and poor governance, particularly public finance governance. Despite the countries' weak mobilization capacities, the volume of public revenue excluding grants is growing steadily in almost all countries in the sub-region. The highest levels of mobilization as a percentage of GDP are recorded in 2018 in Cape Verde (27.7% of GDP), Togo (20.5% of GDP), Burkina Faso (19.7% of GDP), and Mali (19.1% of GDP). The lowest rate is recorded in Nigeria (8.6 per cent of GDP) due in part to the price shocks experienced by the oil sector in recent years.

Figure 47: Total Government Revenue Excluding Grants as a Percentage of GDP



Source: International Monetary Funds, *sub-Saharan Africa Economic Outlook, April 2011 and 2019*

According to available World Bank estimates<sup>25</sup>, officially recorded remittances to low- and middle-income countries reached \$529 billion in 2018, up 9.6 per cent from the record \$483 billion in 2017. In 2019, remittances to low- and middle-income countries are expected to reach \$550 billion (a 4.0% increase over 2018), making them by far the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) and Official Development Assistance (ODA). Moreover, according to World Bank estimates<sup>26</sup>, remittances from migrants in Sub-Saharan Africa are expected to decline by 23.1% from their 2019 level due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic (World Bank and KNOMAD, 2020).

In 2019, the share of migrant remittances received by the sub-region declined overall as a proportion of GDP to an average of 6.1% as against 6.4% in 2017 and 6.7% in 2015. The largest amounts as a proportion of GDP were recorded in 2019 in The Gambia (15.6%), Cape Verde (11.9%) and Senegal (10.7%). Liberia recorded a drastic decline in 2019 (9.8%) compared to 2015 (20.6%).

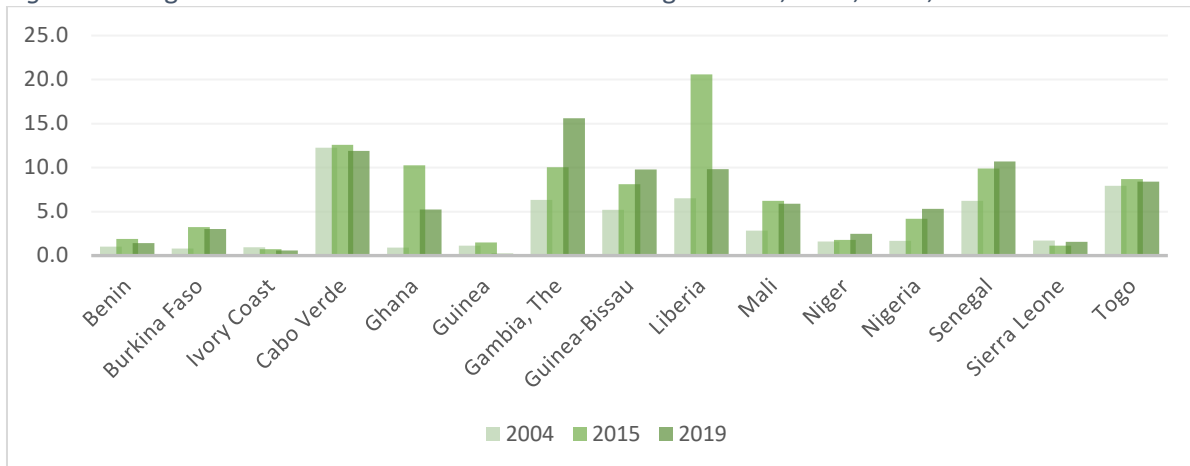
Special attention by States in the organization and improvement of the regulatory framework, on the one hand, and the reduction of remittance transfer costs to the sub-region, on the other, should stimulate remittances and their channelling towards development financing rather than

<sup>25</sup><https://blogs.worldbank.org/peoplemove/data-release-remittances-low-and-middle-income-countries-track-reach-551-billion-2019>

<sup>26</sup>[https://www.knomad.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/R8\\_Migration%26Remittances\\_brief32.pdf](https://www.knomad.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/R8_Migration%26Remittances_brief32.pdf)

consumption alone. The introduction of administrative, procedural and fiscal incentives for diaspora investments should be explored.

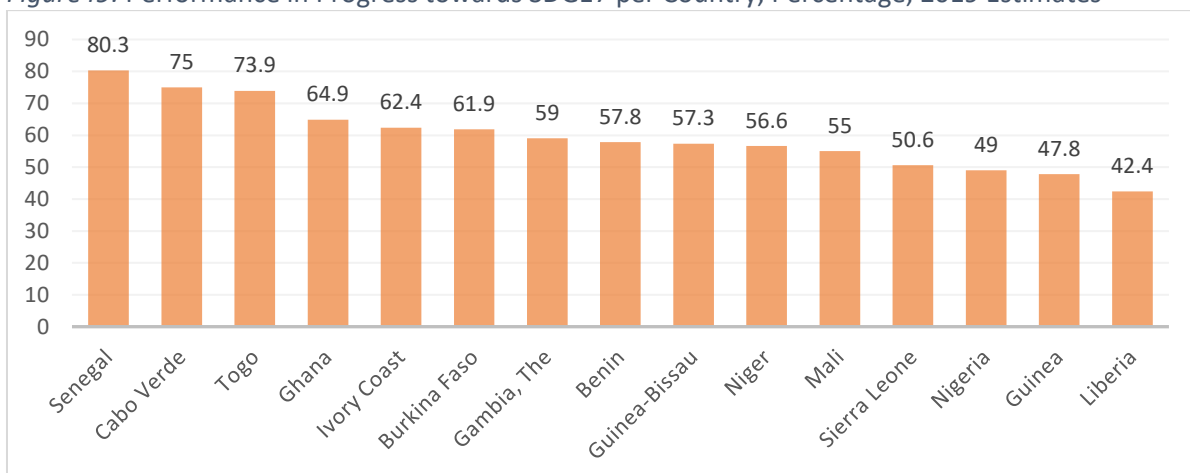
Figure 48: Migrant Remittances Received as a Percentage of GDP, 2004, 2016, and 2019.



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators, July 2020

A review of aggregate performance shows that Senegal, Cape Verde and Togo will be in a good position to record good performance towards achieving SDG17 as they have come more than 73% of the way. Reforms and interventions during the decade of action should aim at consolidating and strengthening the capacity to mobilize internal resources, improving the regulatory framework for migrant remittances on the one hand, and channelling it towards development financing through incentive measures on the other.

Figure 49: Performance in Progress towards SDG17 per Country, Percentage, 2019 Estimates



Source: ECA based on 2019 estimates from the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals for Africa.

The aggregate performance of the countries on all seventeen sustainable development objectives shows that Cape Verde and Ghana would have come 64% and 61.1% of the way respectively. However, a synthetic analysis of country performance by objective, taking the achievement of at least 70.0% progress as the threshold for claiming good performance prospects in 2030, shows that more than 50% of countries in the sub-region are in good position to achieve objectives 10; 12; 13 and 15 (Table1).

Table1: Summary of aggregate country performance per SDG and equivalent Agenda 2063 targets

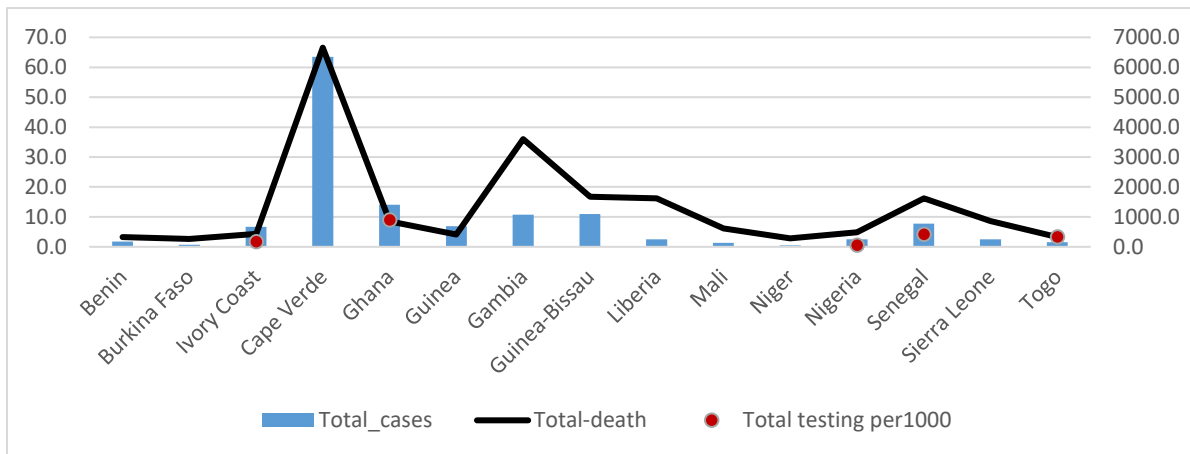
SDG	Aggregate performance >=70.0%.		Corresponding 2063 objectives
	Number of countries	Country	
1	1	Ghana	1 ; 5 ; 7 ; 17
2	0	None	1 ; 3 ; 4 ; 5 ; 7
3	1	Cape Verde	3 ; 17
4	0	None	2
5	0	None	3 ; 5 ; 10 ; 17
6	0	None	1 ; 7
7	0	None	1 ; 6 ; 7 ; 10
8	2	Togo, Ivory Coast	1 ; 4 ; 18
9	0	None	1 ; 4 ; 5 ; 7 ; 10
10	6	Liberia, Guinea, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone	1
11	1	Cape Verde	1 ; 7 ; 10 ; 12 ; 16
12	14	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.	1 ; 4 ; 5 ; 7 ; 12 ; 16
13	15	All countries	7 ;
14	0	None	4 ; 6 ; 7
15	12	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo.	7
16	2	Cape Verde Ghana	11 ; 12 ; 13 ; 17 ; 18
17	3	Senegal, Cape Verde; Togo	1 ; 4 ; 10 ; 19 ; 20

Source: ECA, 2020

## 5. SOCIOECONOMIC CAPACITIES OF THE STATES FACED WITH THE COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS

This section analyses and assesses the economic and social base of West African states in order to assess their potential resilience and response capacities in the face of the adverse effects of Covid-19. Specific indicators for assessing the social and economic base are identified and analysed in relation to the standards and context of the sub-region.

Figure50: Total number of Covid-19-related illnesses and deaths per million, as of August 25, 2020 (read deaths left axis and illnesses right axis).



Source: <https://github.com/owid/covid-19-data/tree/master/public/data>, accessed 25 August 2020

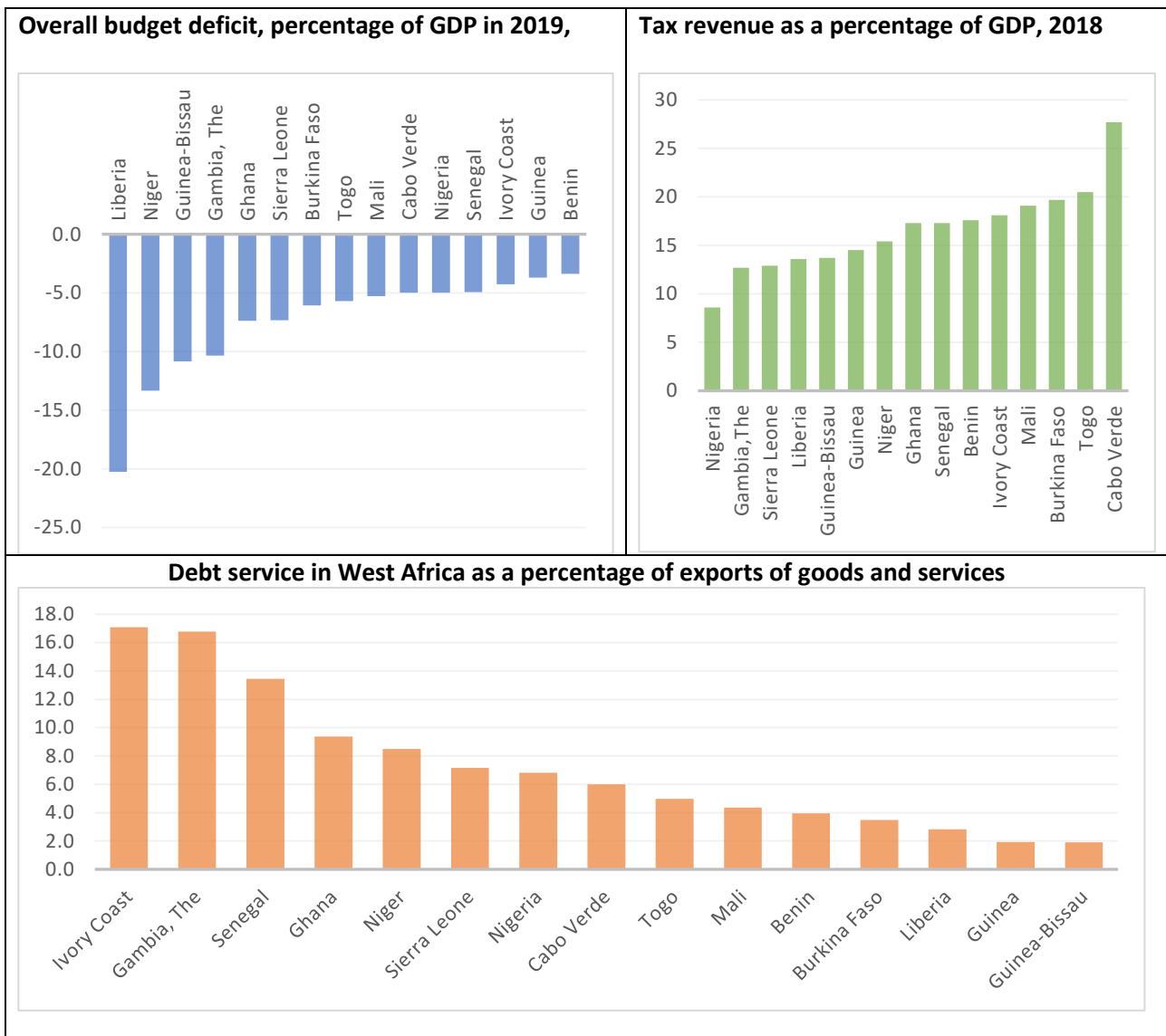
### 5.1. Economic Capacity, Governance and Potential Resilience

The effectiveness of the government response to Covid-19, particularly through the quality of prevention and care of patients, highlighted the difference between countries in terms of response capacity. These capacities are as much a function of the structural quality of the health technical platform (including the health personnel) before Covid-19 as of the fiscal space of the countries during the management of the pandemic. Like all health crises, the Ebola health crisis in 2014-2015 and Covid-19 exposed the vulnerability and structural inadequacy of the health systems of the countries of the sub-region. These structural inadequacies were exacerbated by the lack of financial resources of States that were able to mobilize appropriate health personnel and acquire medical equipment and inputs to address the health crisis.

In terms of fiscal space, all countries in the sub-region were in a very restrictive financial situation. In fact, only Cape Verde and Togo have a level of fiscal income that is close to 20% of GDP. This low financial capacity of States structurally maintains budget deficits of more than 5.0% of GDP in more than three-quarters of the countries in the sub-region, while the community threshold is set at 3.0% of GDP. The weakness of the fiscal space of countries in times of health crisis, coupled with the strong budgetary pressure exerted by security management, particularly in Sahelian countries, is exacerbated by the burden of debt servicing, which restricts the States' capacity to respond. By way of illustration, the four countries with the highest debt service levels in the sub-region (Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Senegal, and Ghana) are also those that record the number of cases of illness and death related to Covid-19 (Figure 51). They also mobilize less than 18% of domestic income GDP.

This weakness of the fiscal space reduces the response capacity of States both during the crisis and in the post-crisis period, particularly in terms of social and economic recovery.

Figure51: Fiscal Space Capacity in West Africa

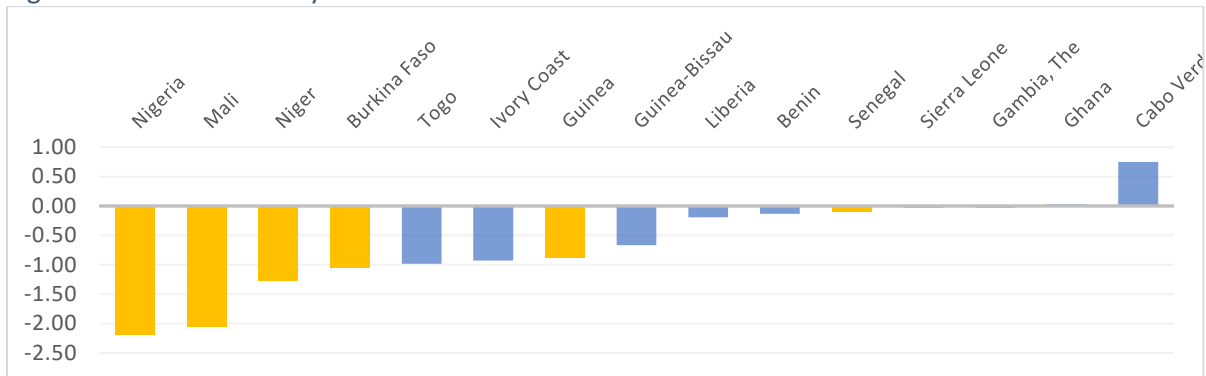


Source: ECA from World Bank WDI

Moreover, in addition to the structural weakness of the financial capacities of the States of the sub-region, particularly because of their low capacity to mobilize internal resources, the sub-regional profile in terms of governance is not conducive to the consolidation and strengthening of the sustainable development process in the States. In addition to the deep and widespread nature of corruption, which inhibits the implementation of public policies in general and structural investments in particular, the state of political and administrative governance in particular remains a major concern for economic and social development. The immediate corollary of this is the weakness of institutions and the limited capacity of the state to provide the population with quality essential services (health, education, security, social protection, etc.). This limitation of the State's capacity to intervene in its sovereign role is aggravated in a crisis situation in general and a health crisis in particular. The management of the Ebola fever epidemic and the Covid-19 pandemic are perfect illustrations of the response capacities of States. The increase in the number of socio-political crisis areas and the exacerbation of insecurity and extreme violence in the sub-region in general and in the Sahelian countries is a major challenge. In fact, apart from Cape Verde, the rest of the countries present a structural profile of political instability according to the estimates of the World Bank's "Worldwide Governance Index". This generalized context of poor

governance in the sub-region is particularly pronounced in the Sahelian countries where the insecurity situation over the last decade has inhibited all development efforts and paralyzed State interventions (Figure52).

Figure52: Political Stability Index in West Africa in 2018

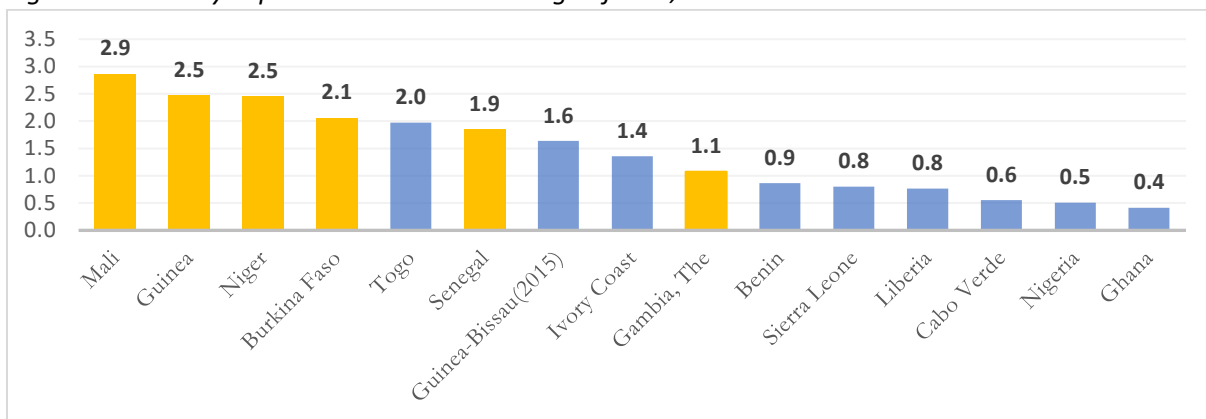


Source: Worldwide governance index, World Bank (index ranged from -2.5 to +2.5)

Note: Sahel countries in young people

In the specific case of the management of internal and territorial security, with its immediate effects of budgetary pressure in general and of crowding out structural investment expenditure in particular, the response to the phenomenon of terrorism and extreme violence has exploded military and security expenditure in the Sahelian countries in particular. In fact, military spending in the G5 Sahelian countries of the sub-region exploded from less than 0.5% of GDP in 2000 to more than 2.0% of GDP in 2018, with a maximum of 2.9% of GDP in Mali (Figure 53). This preponderance of security management expenditures clearly limits the financial and operational capacities of States to respond to all crises in general and of the Covid-19 in particular.

Figure 53: Military Expenditures as a Percentage of GDP, 2018



Source: UNECA, based on WDI database, World Bank, 2020

Note: Sahelian countries are indicated in yellow.

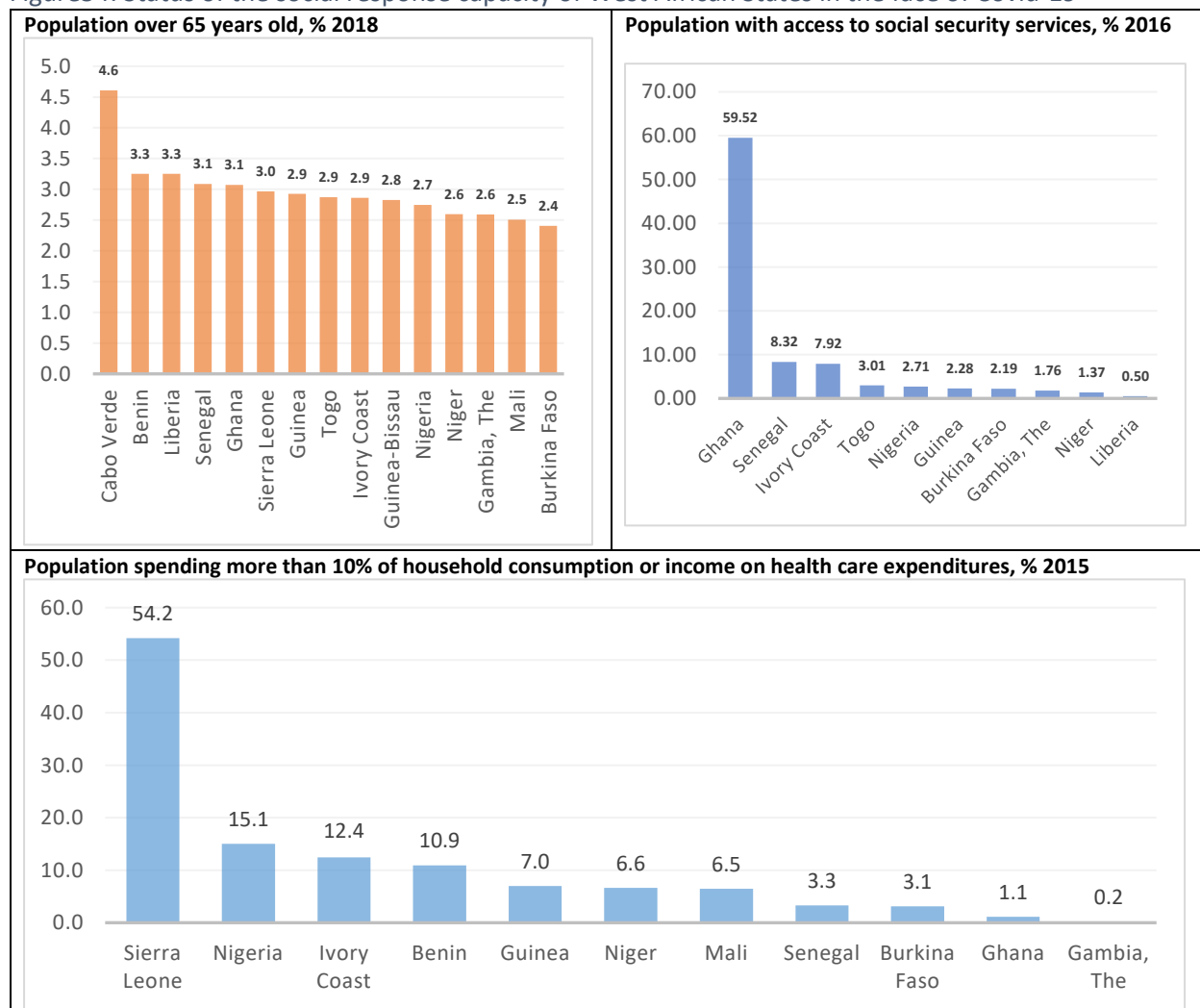
The structural weakness of the financial capacities of West African States combined with the governance deficit, especially in its political, economic and administrative dimensions, sufficiently reduces the prevention and response capacities to the Covid-19, especially in the financing of immediate interventions to contain the disease and for economic and social recovery in the post-Covid-19 period. The strengthening of capacities for mobilizing internal resources and the reinforcement of the efficiency of public expenditure are irreversible and decisive.

## 5.2. Social Capacities and Potential Resilience of States to Covid-19

The analysis of the population structure and the capacity of households to access health care and social security services indicate a potential level of vulnerability of the population to a health crisis of the magnitude of Covid-19. Even if the low proportion of the population at high risk in Covid-19 (older population) is a mitigating factor in the number of mortality cases related to the pandemic (population over 65 years of age varies from 2.4% in Burkina Faso to 4.5% in Cape Verde in 2018), the low capacity of access to health care and social security services increases the risk of morbidity and mortality of the population in the face of any health crisis.

In fact, apart from Ghana where about 40% of the population has access to social security services, in the rest of the fourteen countries of the sub-region, more than 90% of the population does not have access to social security services. Moreover, the endemic nature of poverty in the sub-region means that the proportion of the population spending more than 10% of its income on health care varies from only 0.2% of the total population in The Gambia to 15.1% in Nigeria.

Figure54: Status of the social response capacity of West African States in the face of Covid-19



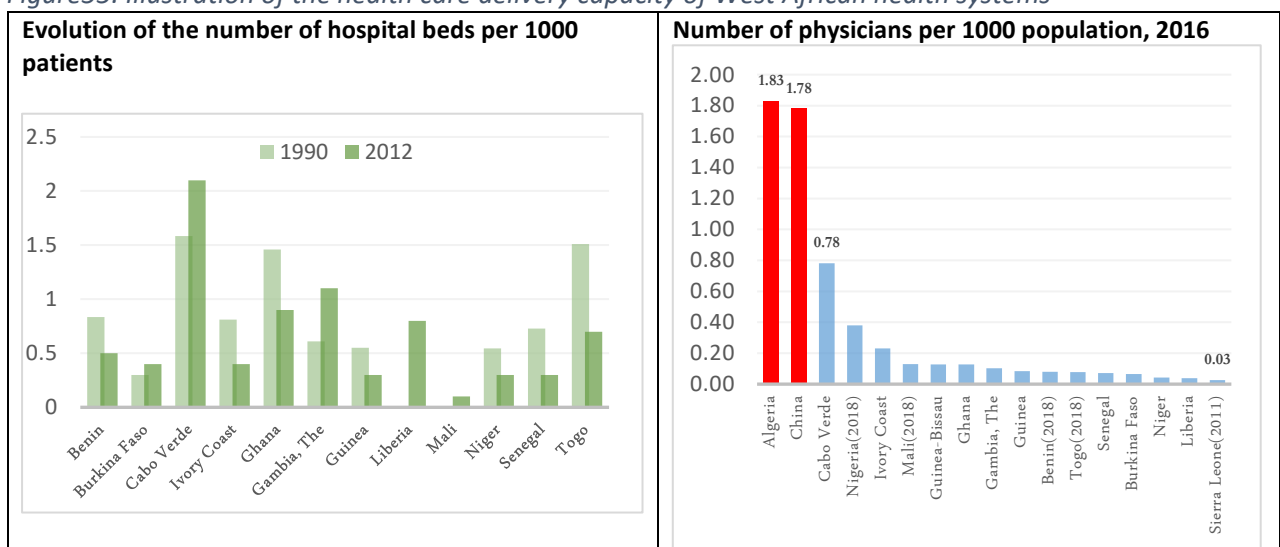
Source: UNECA, based on WDI database, World Bank, 2020

In addition to the structural weakness of the demand capacity of the population's access to basic social services in general and health services in particular, the health care supply capacity of the



health systems of West African countries is a major factor of vulnerability and exposure of the population to a possible health crisis. As an illustration, the reception capacities in terms of the number of hospital beds have fallen sharply in all the countries. This would be linked to the increasing gap between population growth and the supply of health infrastructures. The weakness of the infrastructure and equipment for health care provision is compounded by a significant shortage of health care personnel in terms of both quality and quantity. The number of doctors per 1,000 inhabitants in 2016 varies from 0.03 in Sierra Leone to 0.78 in Cape Verde with a benchmark of 1.83 in Algeria (Figure 53).

Figure 55: Illustration of the health care delivery capacity of West African health systems



Source: ECA based on data from WDI, World Bank

Note: The most recent data were used.

Efforts have been made by States to improve the supply of basic social services in general and health services in the course of implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in terms of infrastructure, equipment and health personnel, and this momentum is gradually building up in the context of the implementation of the MDGs. The two recent health crises, namely Ebola and Covid-19, have highlighted the weakness and high vulnerability of health systems in the countries of the sub-region. These structural deficits concern both the qualitative and quantitative dimensions of health service supply. The preceding factual illustrations show that the gaps in terms of health infrastructure and equipment as well as health personnel remain significant and the decade of action should be used by the countries of the sub-region to substantially reduce the gaps, although Covid-19 will impact the efforts of countries towards the achievement of the SDGs. The section below provides a summary analysis of the MDGs that could be potentially impacted in the short and medium term in West Africa by Covid-19 to varying degrees.

### 5.3. Potential effects of Covid-19 on the performance of progress of the DOs and those of the corresponding 2063 agenda

Sachs J. et al (2020) in the Global Sustainability 2020 Report undertook an assessment of the potential impacts of Covid-19 on progress towards achieving SDGs. Thus, positive, mixed or moderate, negatively high and undefined impacts to date were assigned to each SDG and the main transmission channels. The analysis in this section is based on the results of this report with minimal contextualization of West Africa.

Indeed, in West Africa, the potential short- and medium-term negative effects of Covid-19 on progress towards the achievement of the SDGs during the decade of action relate to objectives 1 to 4 and 8 and 10 for high impacts; 5 to 7; 9; 11; 16 and 17 for moderate impacts. However, impacts to date remain undefined for Goals 12-15 (Table2).

Table2: Rapid assessment of the potential effects of Covid-19 on the progress of SDGs in West Africa

#SDG	Expected potential effects				Major transmission channels in West Africa
	High Negative	Moderate Negative	Positive	Undefined	
1. poverty eradication	x				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Worsening poverty through job losses ;</li> <li>○ Preponderance of vulnerable jobs and social security deficit ;</li> <li>○ Preponderance of vulnerable and marginalized populations (peri-urban and rural areas) ;</li> <li>○ Specifically unfavourable socioeconomic profile in the Sahel</li> </ul>
2. fight against hunger	x				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food insecurity through the disruption of food supply chains ;</li> <li>○ Increased food losses and wastage due to transportation problems and reduced labour availability</li> <li>○ Poor nutrition due to interruption of school meals</li> </ul>
3. access to health care	x				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weakness and structural vulnerability of the health system ;</li> <li>○ Overheating of the health care system due to Covid-19 with a crowding out effect on the management of other cases of high morbidity and mortality (malaria, etc.);</li> <li>○ Increase in mental health cases due to confinement ;</li> <li>○ Insecurity in the Sahel limiting state intervention ;</li> <li>○ Increased mortality of the elderly</li> <li>○ Administrative, political and local governance</li> </ul>

#SDG	Expected potential effects				Major transmission channels in West Africa
	High Negative	Moderate Negative	Positive	Undefined	
4. access to quality education	x				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deterioration in the quality of training through increased drop-out and repetition rates ;</li> <li>○ Disruption of the training program by school closures ;</li> <li>○ Amplifying effects related to the closure of schools in the Sahel ;</li> <li>○ Crowding out effects insecurity on education financing</li> <li>○ Administrative, political and local governance</li> </ul>
5 Gender Equality		x			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Degradation of women's empowerment due to the precariousness of women's jobs;</li> <li>○ High vulnerability of the elderly ;</li> <li>○ Women's structurally precarious socio-economic status</li> </ul>
6. access to safe water and sanitation		x			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limited access to drinking water among structurally disadvantaged groups (peri-urban and rural) ;</li> <li>○ Low access to sanitation services, especially for the most vulnerable segments of the population.</li> <li>○ Large gap in drinking water and sanitation infrastructures ;</li> <li>○ Administrative and local governance</li> </ul>
7. use of renewable energies		x			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decrease in the accessibility of electricity due to the decrease in household income through the loss of jobs ;</li> <li>○ Delay in the realization of projects and energy supply program ;</li> <li>○ Administrative and local governance ;</li> <li>○ Insecurity in the Sahel</li> </ul>
8. Access to decent jobs	x				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disruption of trade</li> <li>○ Mass unemployment</li> <li>○ Business closures and bankruptcies</li> <li>○ Sharp decline in tourism activities</li> <li>○ Decrease in revenue/government revenues ;</li> <li>○ Public finance and administrative governance ;</li> <li>○ Global economic crisis linked to Covid-19 ;</li> </ul>

#SDG	Expected potential effects				Major transmission channels in West Africa
	High Negative	Moderate Negative	Positive	Undefined	
9. Innovation and infrastructure		x	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Slowing down or shutting down industrial production units ;</li> <li>○ Shortfall in the supply of intermediate and capital goods ;</li> <li>○ Delay or cancellation of infrastructure development projects ;</li> <li>○ Delay or cancellation of infrastructure financing agreements with TFPs ;</li> <li>○ Corruption and political and administrative governance</li> <li>○ <b>Promoting digitization through the acceleration of digital technologies, e-health, e-education, e-governance, and e-payments</b></li> </ul>
10 Reduction of inequalities	x				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disproportionate health and economic impacts on vulnerable groups (including refugees and migrants), particularly in relation to weak safety nets ;</li> <li>○ Loss of low-skilled and precarious jobs</li> </ul>
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities		x	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased urban and peri-urban precariousness and vulnerability ;</li> <li>○ Urban public transport stops</li> <li>○ Reduced access to public / green spaces ;</li> <li>○ Accelerated and uncontrolled urbanization</li> <li>○ <b>Strong short-term reduction in pollution levels</b></li> </ul>
12. responsible consumption				x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short-term reduction in the use of natural resources due to reduced production and consumption activities</li> <li>○ Pressure to relax regulations on the economy and postpone the adoption of new measures</li> <li>○ Increase in plastic pollution (e.g., used to manufacture personal protective equipment).</li> </ul>
13 Fight against climate change				x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short-term reduction of GHG emissions and other forms of human pollution ;</li> <li>○ Lower energy prices (oil, gas, etc.) induced by the economic slowdown.</li> </ul>
14 Protection of aquatic fauna and flora				x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short-term reduction of threats to marine biodiversity due to reduced global economic activity and consumption</li> <li>○ Pressure to reduce marine biodiversity and ecosystem safeguards</li> </ul>

#SDG	Expected potential effects				Major transmission channels in West Africa
	High Negative	Moderate Negative	Positive	Undefined	
15 Protection of terrestrial fauna and flora				x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short-term reduction of threats to terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity due to reduced global economic activity and consumption</li> <li>Pressure to reduce terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem safeguards, including conventions regulating biodiversity and ecosystems (e.g. on deforestation)</li> </ul>
16 Justice and peace		x			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased pressure on governments to mitigate the health and economic consequences of the pandemic</li> <li>Pressure to increase access to health care in countries that have not yet achieved universal health coverage</li> <li>Increase in public deficits and debt</li> <li>Disruption of legislative processes and public debate</li> <li>Restriction of Freedom of Information Laws and Transparency Policies ;</li> <li>Deterioration of human rights gains through the implementation of prevention and protection measures for the population at Covid-19</li> </ul>
17 Partnering for global goals		x			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in humanitarian and development assistance from the international community ;</li> <li>Reduced international remittances and cross-border financing</li> <li>Decrease in international trade due to border closures</li> <li>Term increase in debt service and tightening of debt conditions ;</li> <li>Eviction of poor countries by the major economic powers in the acquisition of health and medical inputs and equipment</li> </ul>

Source: CEA contextualized from Sachs J. (2020) World Report 2020 on Sustainable Development.

## 6. CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Ten years before the deadline for implementing the sustainable development objectives program, which aims, among other things, at consolidating the achievements and correcting the unfinished business of the MDGs, more than 40.0% of countries in the sub-region have already made more than 70.0% of the way towards achieving Goals 10, 12, 13 and 15 by 2030. However, no country is in a good position to achieve Goals 2; 4-7; 9 and 14 by 2030.

West African countries have made encouraging progress. This encouraging progress is perceptible particularly in terms of the scope of public policies and reforms implemented, although the impact in terms of measurable results remains mixed on the ground. Ambitious reforms and programs have been designed and implemented to strengthen governance and institutions by tackling corruption, restoring peace, restoring security, strengthening social cohesion for better living together, improving the effectiveness of public administration, and consolidating democracy.

The willingness of national authorities to base the financing of public policy implementation primarily on local resources (and not on official development assistance) has led in some countries to encouraging progress in tax revenue mobilization through the implementation of major public finance reforms. This desire has also materialized in the development of a partnership that gives priority to the strengthening of endogenous capacities and the promotion of South-South cooperation through initiatives to strengthen regional integration, although the effects of Covid-19 would significantly reduce migrant remittances to the region in general and West Africa in particular.

In spite of the destabilization of the health systems of the sub-region by the Covid-19 pandemic, progress has also been made in terms of access to health care through the construction and rehabilitation of health infrastructure and health training, the increase in the number of health care personnel and the implementation of free health care programs, particularly for children and pregnant women.

On the other hand, countries in the sub-region are lagging far behind in terms of efficiency in consumption and production patterns, protection and sustainable exploitation of marine and ocean resources, adaptation to the effects of climate change, access to energy, drinking water and appropriate sanitation services. Targeted and quick-win reforms are also expected to have a greater impact on the eradication of extreme poverty, the creation of decent jobs, the reduction of inequalities and the promotion of sustainable cities through controlled urbanization. Thus, the decade of action by countries in the sub-region should give priority to reducing these major gaps in terms of both reforms and interventions.

In addition, the interventions during the decade of action should also ensure the reconstitution and safeguarding of the achievements recorded during the last two decades of efforts made by the countries and which would be negatively impacted by the Covid-19. The achievements to be safeguarded relate to objectives 1 to 4 and 8 and 10 with high negative impacts and to a lesser extent to objectives 5 to 7; 9; 11; 16 and 17.

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## APPENDICES: Level of alignment between the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063

### Appendix 1: Coherence between the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda and the AU 2063 Agenda

Table3: Degree of alignment between the Sustainable Development Program to the 2030 and 2063 Agendas

SDG Objectives	Strongly aligned	Poorly aligned	Total	Non Associates
<b>Number of objectives</b>	11	6	17	0
<b>% of objectives</b>	64,7	35,3	100	0
<b>Number of targets</b>	62	56	118	51
<b>of targets</b>	36,7	33,1	69,8	30,2
<b>Number of indicators</b>	96	66	162	79
<b>% of indicators</b>	39,8	27,4	67,2	32,8

Source: ECA, 2017

Table4: SDG objectives strongly aligned with those of the 2063 Agenda

SDG	% target alignment	Description of objectives
<b>#2</b>	100	Eradicate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
<b>#5</b>	100	Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls
<b>#7</b>	100	Ensuring access for all to reliable, sustainable and modern energy services at an affordable cost
<b>#16</b>	90	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all and develop effective, accountable institutions at all levels.
<b>#10</b>	43	Reduce inequalities within and between countries
<b>#13</b>	33	Take urgent action to address climate change and its impacts
<b>#14</b>	29	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
<b>#15</b>	30	Conserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems, ensuring their sustainable use, manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Source: ECA, 2017