



FACT SHEET: Africa Human Development Report 2016

Accelerating gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Human development progress and trends

Human development in Africa is rising and low human development countries are catching up, despite persisting inequality within countries and between women and men.

17 African countries across the 5 regions have attained medium and high human development – Southern Africa (6), North Africa (5), Central Africa (4), West Africa (2), and East Africa (5).

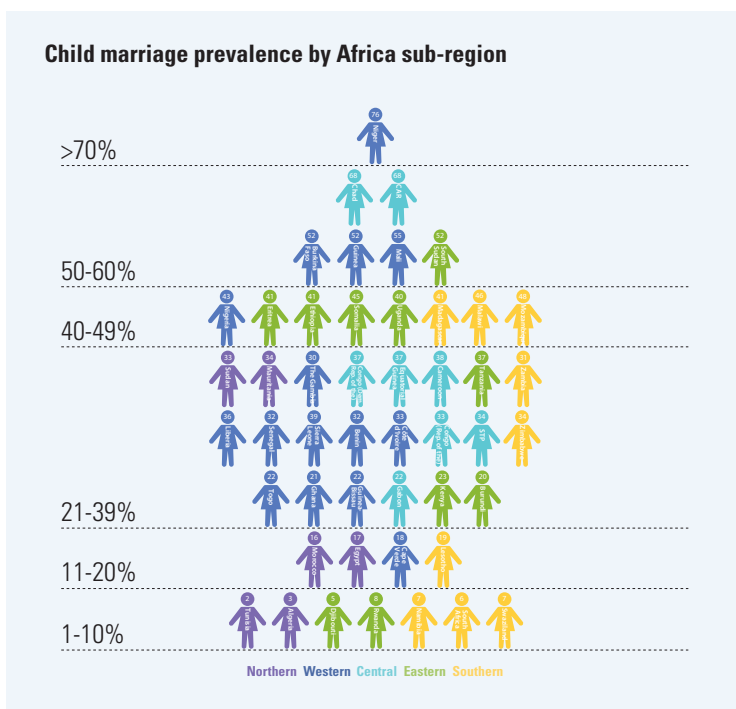
Women on average achieve 87% of the human development outcome of males mainly due to less command over economic resources but also due to poorer health and education outcomes.

Women's health, education and security

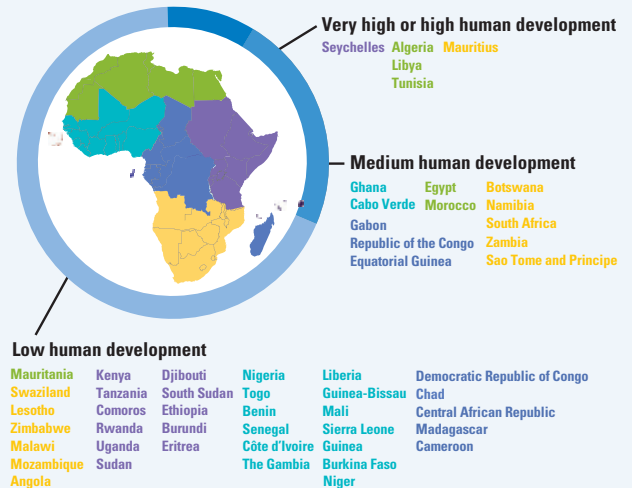
The gender gap in primary education has closed, some progress on secondary and tertiary.

However, women and girls in Africa are at risk from premature deaths. Between 1990 and 2008, there were an additional 540 million premature deaths for girls and women under 60 – most occurring for women aged between 15 and 49.

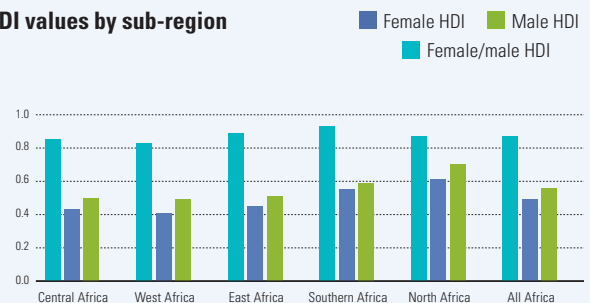
The most at-risk women are those of child bearing age. If adolescent births fall by 10%, women's life expectancy will rise by 9 months and adult female mortality rate will fall by 11%.



Human development levels in Africa August 2016

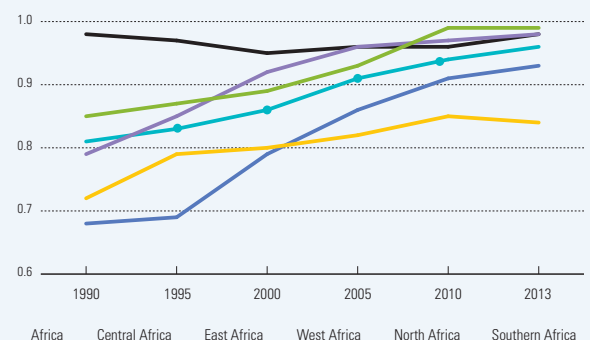


GDI values by sub-region



Source: Computed by the AfHDR Team from data in UNDP, 2015.

Gender parity in primary school enrolment



Source: UN Statistical Database, accessed 1 June 2016.

Women and work

More African women in the workplace is driving growth – up to 61% of women participate in labour force.

There are more women working and Africa's labour gender gap is closing. Yet more women in labour market is not leading to well-paying jobs and productive enterprises for women.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the average unadjusted gender pay gap is estimated at 30 percent. Thus, for every \$1 earned by men in manufacturing, services and trade, women earn 70 cents.

Results confirm that Africa is missing its full growth potential because a sizeable portion of its growth reserve – women – is not fully utilized.

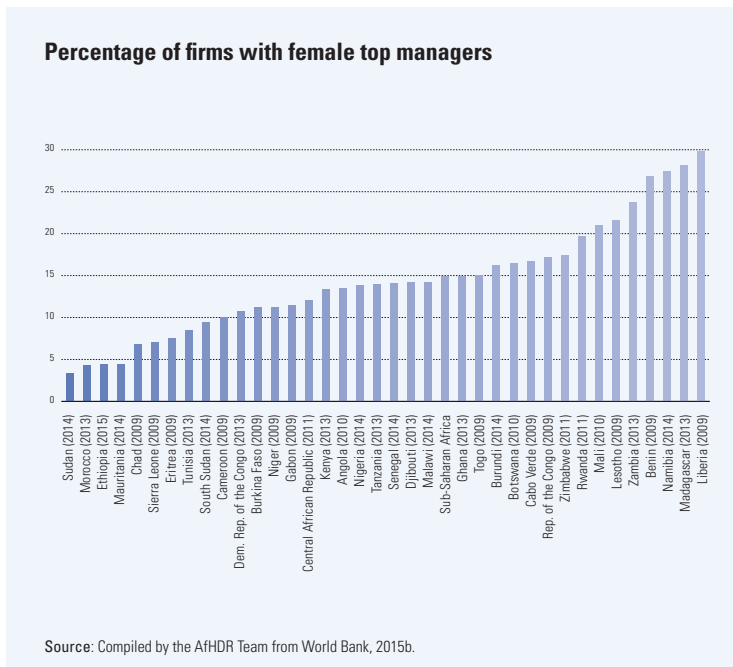
The estimated total annual economic losses due to gender gaps in labour market average \$ 95 billion per year since 2010 in Sub-Saharan Africa and could be as high as US\$105 billion (2014), i.e. 6% of GDP.

Women, politics and leadership

4 African countries in the top 10 globally – highest levels of women representation in parliament (Rwanda, Seychelles, Senegal, SA). And 16 countries surpassed the 30% threshold of representation in national Parliament.

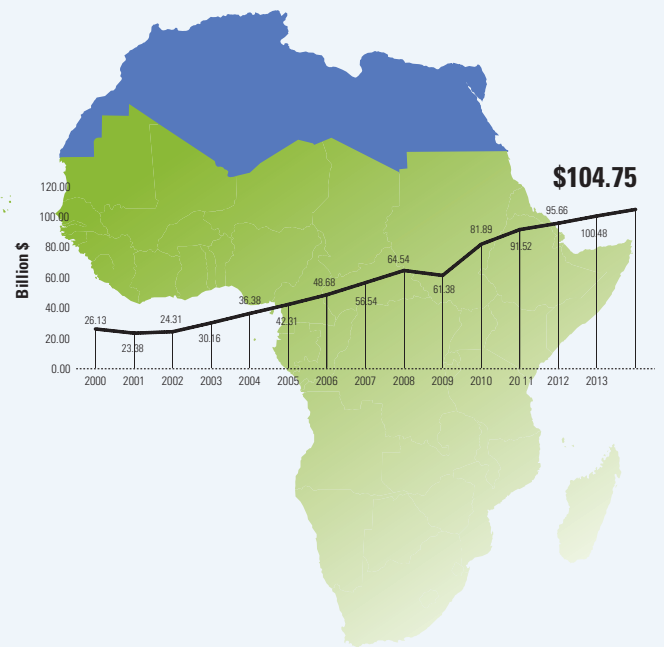
Women leaders are more visible in parliament yet political structures still proscribe their full potential to shape the national and local political and policy agenda as there is only between 5 and 25% representation in senior positions in political parties in 12 countries.

Female and male led enterprises are equally productive yet the female led enterprises are still in the minority with only 7-30% African firms led by a woman.



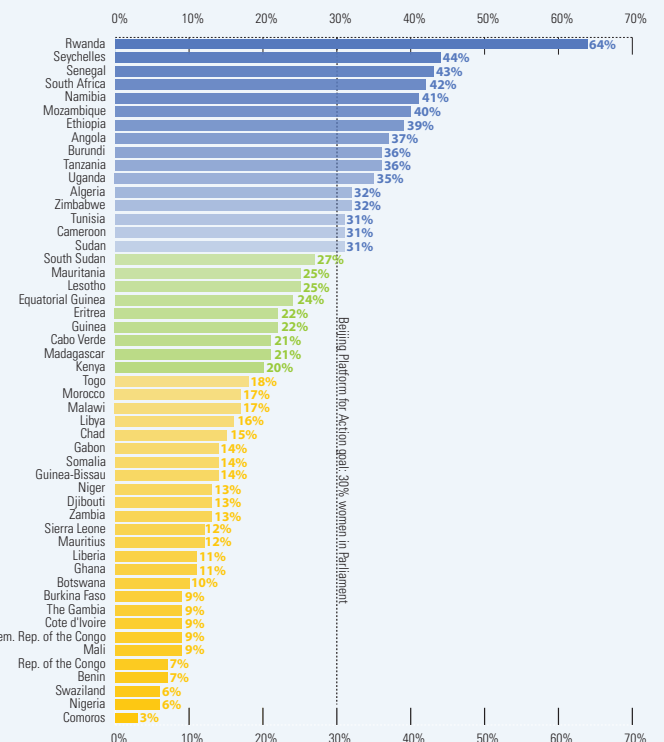
Source: Compiled by the AfHDR Team from World Bank, 2015b.

GDP Losses due to gender gap. In labour market in sub-Saharan Africa (Billion \$)



Source: Computed by AfHDR Team.

Women representation in lower houses of parliament in Africa (%)



Beijing Platform for Action goal: 30% women in Parliament

Legal and social forms

African countries have adopted international and regional frameworks on human and women's rights but there is a significant gap between intention and practice. The Gambia and Tanzania banned early marriage this year. A more concerted effort is needed to bring many more countries into alignment.

Legal instruments are necessary but not sufficient in the face of parallel systems of customary law.

Negative social institutions and norms create a stumbling block for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

Effective institutional responses for gender equality

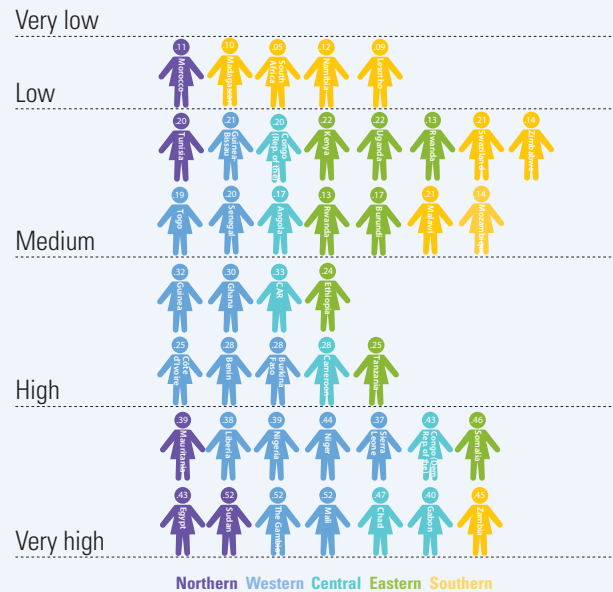
An effective institutional response must first ensure that gender equality considerations are at the heart of policy and public expenditure decisions. This must be complemented by more effective gender-focused institutions that work with all actors to facilitate the process.

An agenda for action

Agenda for action

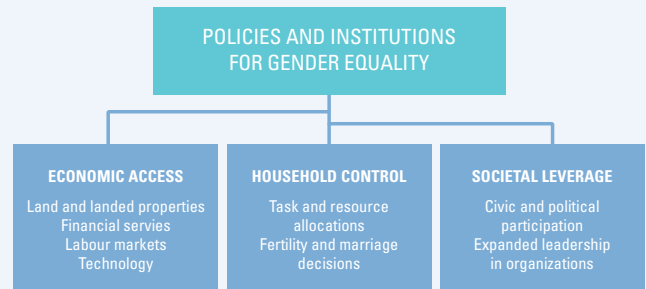


Discrimination against women



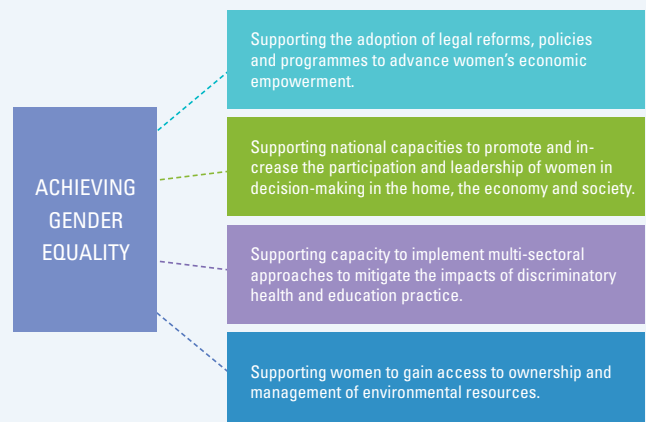
Source: Designed by the AfHDR Team from Social Institutions and Gender Index (OECD, 2014).
 Note: Discriminatory family code - restricted physical integrity - son bias restricted resources and assets - restricted civil liberties

Policy and institutional conduits for gender equality



Source: Adapted from WHO, 2015.

Strategic pathways for addressing gender inequality



Source: Adapted from Changing with the World: UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017. New York.