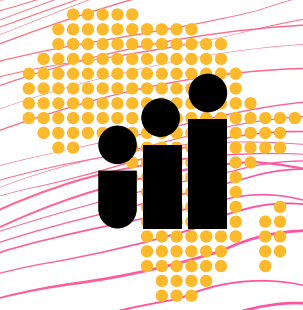




PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST



Acknowledgements

This report was produced by the Office of the Regional Directors for Human Development in the Africa Region under the guidance of Amit Dar and Dena Ringold. The writing team for this progress report was led by Enó Isong and Somya Bajaj. Valuable contributions to the report were provided by Fanen Ade, Arlette Fotso, Maria Gracheva, Stanislas Honkuy, Junko Onishi, Soazic Elise Sonne, and Jozefien Van Damme. Comments were received from Francisca Ayo Akala, Anne Bakilana, Tekabe Belay, Paolo Belli, Christian Bodewig, Robert Chase, Carine Clert, Amit Dar, Halil Dundar, Safaa El-Kogali, Ramesh Govindaraj, Rebekka Grun, Magnus Lindelow, Ernest Massiah, Muna Meky, Meskerem Mulatu, Patrick Mullen, Elizabeth Ninan, Emre Ozaltin, Dhushyanth Raju, Dena Ringold, Christophe Rockmore, Yevgeniya Savchenko, Gaston Sorgho, Inaam Ul Haq, Andrea Vermehren, and Waly Wane. Administrative and logistical support was provided by Saïda Gall and Tigist Yimer.

The report was edited by Leslie Ashby and Enó Isong.

The digital and print publication was produced and designed by Elkanodata.

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References: Africa Human Capital Plan: Powering Africa's Potential Through Its People; Africa Human Capital Plan: Deep Dives; Africa's Pulse, No. 25, April 2022; World Bank Open Data; World Bank Support for Country Access to COVID-19 Vaccines; WHO The Global Health Observatory; World Bank HCI 2020

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International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
THE WORLD BANK
Washington DC 20433
Telephone: +1-202-473-1000
Internet: www.worldbank.org



Our Mission

Invest in people, empower lives

7 Gamechangers to Advance Human Capital Development



Increasing World Bank financing for human capital in Africa



Preventing and reversing damage to human capital in settings affected by fragility, conflict, and violence



Rallying World Bank country teams and partners around the human capital agenda to enable comprehensive cross-sectoral solutions at scale



Accelerating the demographic transition by empowering women and girls



Leveraging technology and innovations in projects to further human capital



Supporting policy reforms to overcome legal and regulatory constraints



Advancing research and advocacy to strengthen the knowledge base and the demand side of human capital

In April 2019, we launched the Africa Human Capital Plan (HCP) centered on a set of gamechangers and ambitious targets to be achieved by 2023. We are working to decrease child mortality, stunting, and adolescent fertility rates and to increase learning outcomes, social protection coverage, sanitation practices, and Human Capital Index scores.

Assumptions made three years ago have been validated. The Africa HCP provides a strong framework to address emergency response and inclusive recovery efforts as we take on COVID-19, climate change, and other compounding crises that threaten to erode the human capital of an entire generation.

We continue to galvanize resources and foster multisectoral collaboration to strengthen social service delivery systems, empower women and girls, and embrace digital and climate-smart solutions. In just three years, the World Bank's commitments in human development operations in Africa have reached an historic \$34 billion.

Our mission has never been more urgent. We are focused on prioritizing investments in key social sector determinants to improve human capital outcomes and economic growth in Africa, because every man, woman, and child should be equipped to realize their full human capital potential as productive members of their communities.

VP Reflections



“The past two years have made one thing clear: development is not only a question of economic growth, it is also a question of supporting people to fulfil their full potential, what we call protecting and investing in people. Advancing human potential, the skills, knowledge and health of people is now front and center of the development agenda.”

As we continue to focus on the huge set-back to human capital from COVID-19, which has caused disruptions at all the different stages of the life cycle, from children’s early years losses from being out of school and out of work, to many deaths among the elderly, especially men, the pandemic also made stark the need to focus on equality and resilience

going forward. Only with greater equality in access to services and greater resilience in systems, whether for education or health care or social protection, will we be able to ensure that the next shock or next pandemic does not cause the same disruption. As challenges accumulate — from conflict to climate change to inflation to increasing racial and social inequalities, we need to continue to look for solutions that secure human development. Using our tools and know-how to support all people, especially the poorest and the most vulnerable, throughout their life cycle, is what makes our contribution more important than ever before.

Mamta Murthi
World Bank Vice President
Human Development



“Women are a force for economic growth and job creation in Africa. Advancing gender equality is smart economics, sound business practice, and an essential development policy.”

When women and men have equal opportunities to shape their own lives and contribute to their families, communities, and the economy, countries experience enhanced productivity and improved development outcomes, while businesses and institutions perform better. Since the Africa HCP began, we have committed over \$11.5 billion to new projects that promote gender equality at home, school, and work. We are investing in women and girl’s health, education, and economic empowerment, as well as a first generation of projects that supports human capital policy reform. This work is all the more critical in the face of COVID-19, which has disproportionately impacted the schooling, employment, and domestic lives of women and girls.

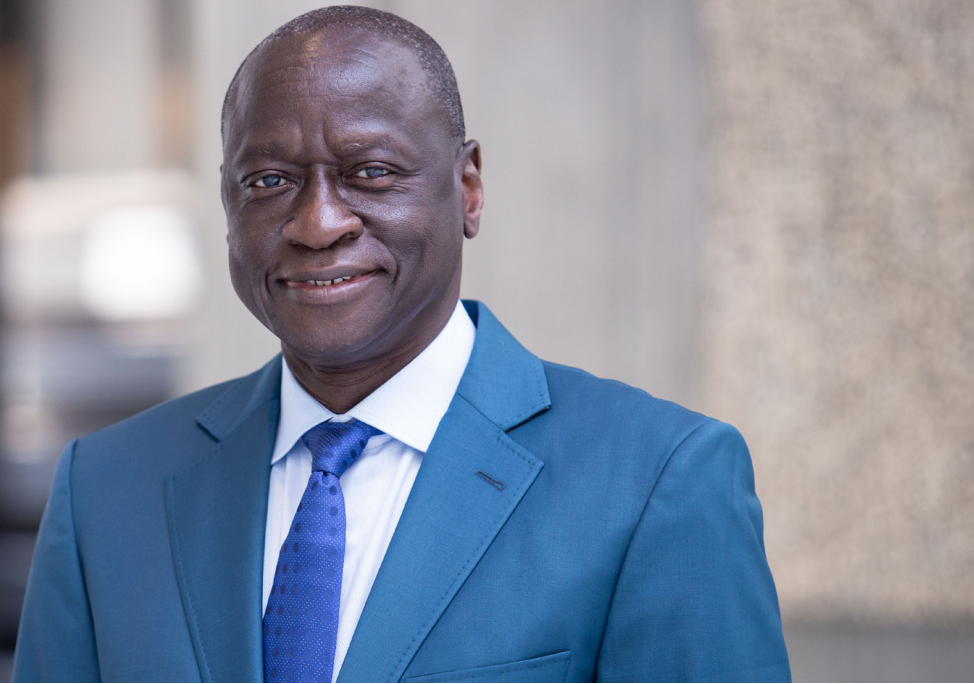


Victoria Kwakwa
World Bank Regional Vice President
Eastern and Southern Africa

In parallel, the world is facing a climate crisis. Women are increasingly being recognized as more vulnerable to the effects of climate change as they constitute the majority of the world’s poor and are more dependent on natural resources.

As part of the Africa Human Capital Plan, we are focused on ensuring safe and equitable access to social services and opportunities for girls and women and eliminating harmful social norms through policy reforms and community engagement. We have an opportunity now — and we are seizing it — to fix systems, practices, and funding to build a more inclusive, resilient recovery.

Hafez Ghanem
World Bank Regional Vice President
Eastern and Southern Africa (July 2020 to July 2022)



“The young people of Africa need prospects and hope to build their future at home.”

The rise of the knowledge economy, rapid developments in technology, and the growing impact of climate change, all necessitate a quality education for our citizens. An education that reflects the changing global landscape is our best tool to meet the aspirations of our young people and their parents.

The Africa of tomorrow is built in our schools today. Progress has been made, but millions of children in Sub-Saharan Africa still remain out of school or cannot read and comprehend a simple text by the time they reach the age of 11. Our countries are facing learning crises that are exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Through the Africa Human Capital Project, we are helping countries turn commitments to education into action. We actively support the improvements in the quality of education accessible by our youth and make it more accessible at all levels. We emphasize inclusiveness to ensure that girls in rural or fragile areas are not left behind. While we teach our children to be resilient, their education systems must be as well. A good education can turn a child into a lifelong learner, reaping benefits for themselves and their communities well beyond the classroom. We are making smart and effective investments in people’s education to develop the human capital that will end extreme poverty and deliver on the promise of shared prosperity in Africa.

Ousmane Diagana
World Bank Regional Vice President,
Western and Central Africa



Our Progress

Investing and preserving Africa’s human capital

The Africa HCP has set **clear targets and commitments by 2023** to boost and accelerate scaled up financing for human capital, expand support across development sectors, and leverage policy and results-based human capital reforms. The components of the World Bank’s

Human Capital Index (HCI) – survival, schooling, and health – all have direct links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and measure how well countries invest in their next generation of workers.

Africa HCP Goals by 2023

Long-Term Outcome Indicators (average for Sub-Saharan Africa)	Baseline 2018	2022*	Target 2023
Reduce the under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) saving 4 million lives	75 (2017)	73 ¹	45
Reduce the stunting rate of all children, saving 10.9 million children from stunting	32%	31.70% ²	26%
Increase overall adult survival rate through improved prevention and stronger health systems	0.73	data unavailable	0.81
Increase learning-adjusted years of school	4.94	4.96 ³	5.88
Increase social protection coverage of the poorest economic quintile in low-income countries, adding coverage for 13.1 million people	20%	data unavailable	30%
Reduce the adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women age 15 to 19 years)	101	98 ⁴	83
Reduce open defecation	22.9% (2015)	18% ⁵	15%
Increase future productivity by 13% by improving on the Human Capital Index score	0.40	0.40 ⁶	0.45

* 2020 most recent year available

1 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.MORT?locations=ZG> - World Bank Open Data
 2 <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/gho-jme-stunting-prevalence> - WHO The Global Health Observatory
 3 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital> - World Bank HCI 2020
 4 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT?locations=ZG> - World Bank Open Data
 5 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.ODFC.ZS?locations=ZG> - World Bank Open Data
 6 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital> - World Bank HCI 2020

While efforts of investing and preserving Africa's human capital have been impacted and threatened by recent multiple overlapping global crises – including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine-Russia conflict, climate change-induced natural disasters, and regional armed conflicts – slow and uneven progress has been made towards achieving these target goals (where data is available). As we assess our progress to date, it is clear there remains a lot of work to be done in order to achieve the HCI targets of the AFR HCP Plan by 2023. Revisiting the targets in the new post-COVID reality presents an opportunity to reassess priorities and interventions and apply lessons learned to ensure

better long-term outcomes. The IDA20 (International Development Association) special theme on human capital positions us well for the next stepped-up phase of the Africa HCP.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only made the process of assessing and tracking progress very challenging, it has also highlighted the importance of leveraging accurate and comprehensive data and evidence to make policy decisions. **Improving and strengthening the quality, timeliness, and relevance of national data collection systems is critical.**



Our Numbers

Scaling up financing for human capital in Africa

Data as of end FY2022 (June 2022)

Scaling-up financing and resources for human capital in the Africa Region remains a key gamechanger of the Africa HCP, and a core commitment of the World Bank Group.

By the end of FY22, the total World Bank's Africa human development portfolio includes 232 health, education, and social protection projects worth \$34.3 billion. This represents 79 human development projects totaling \$8.2 billion approved in FY22 alone.

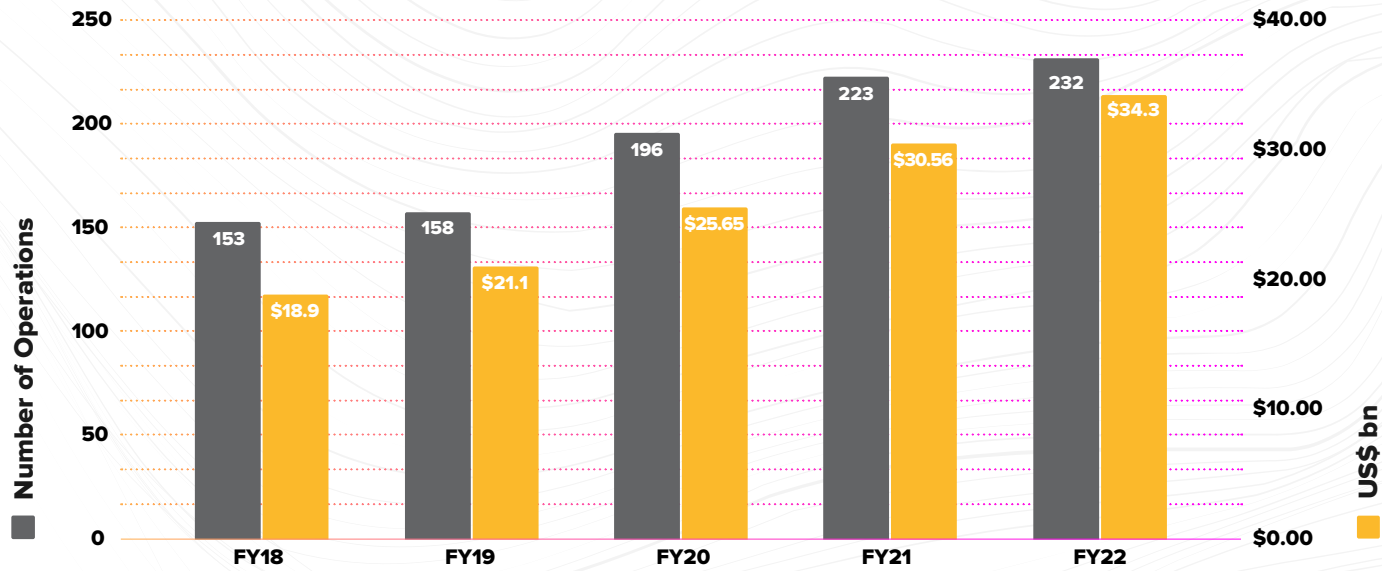
The human capital agenda is central to our COVID-19 recovery response and country dialogue, focusing on improving critical outcomes using multi-sectoral approaches that ensure sustainable financing, strengthened social services delivery systems using technology and innovation, and accelerated demographic transition efforts.



\$34.3 billion

Steady growth since the Africa HCP launched in 2019

World Bank's human development portfolio in Africa supports health, education, and social protection, and jobs. It has experienced steady growth since the Africa HCP launched in 2019.

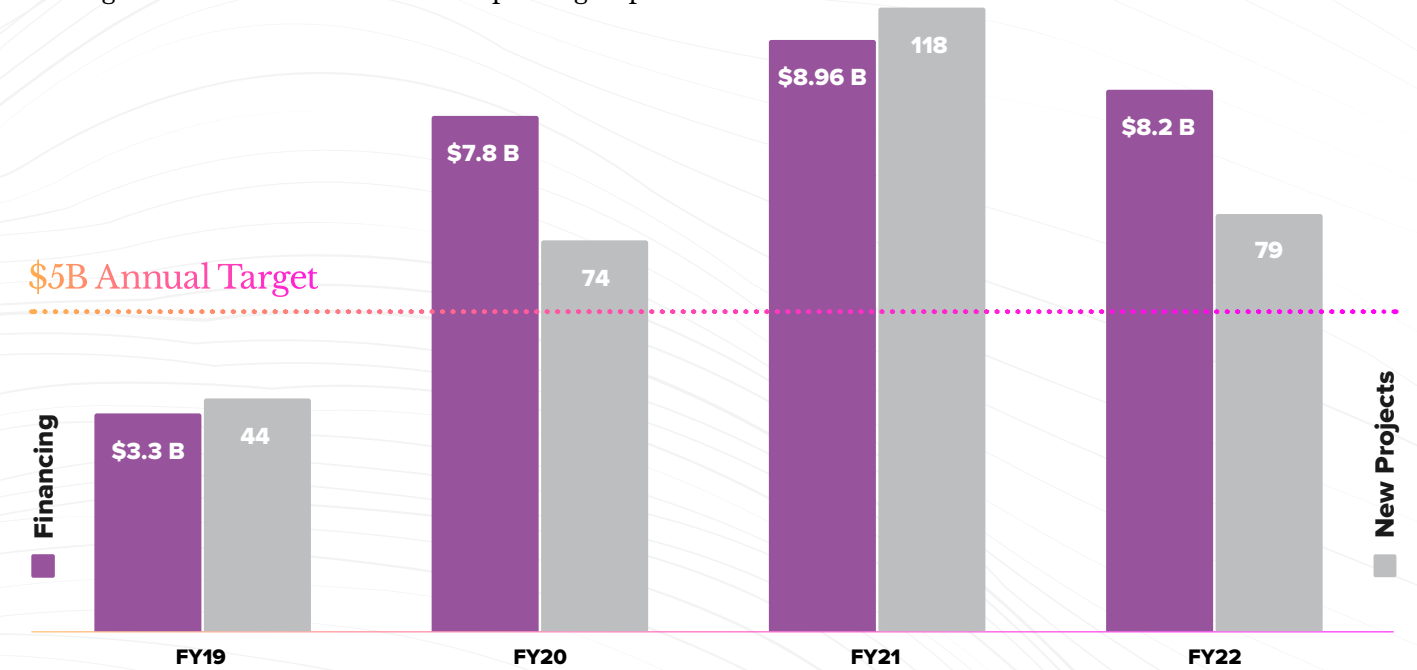


Continuing to exceed the Africa HCP annual investment goal

For the last three years, the Africa HCP has exceeded its annual investment goal of \$5 billion. FY22 represents the 2nd highest for the Africa human development group.

\$8.2 billion

World Bank human development financing in Africa in FY22



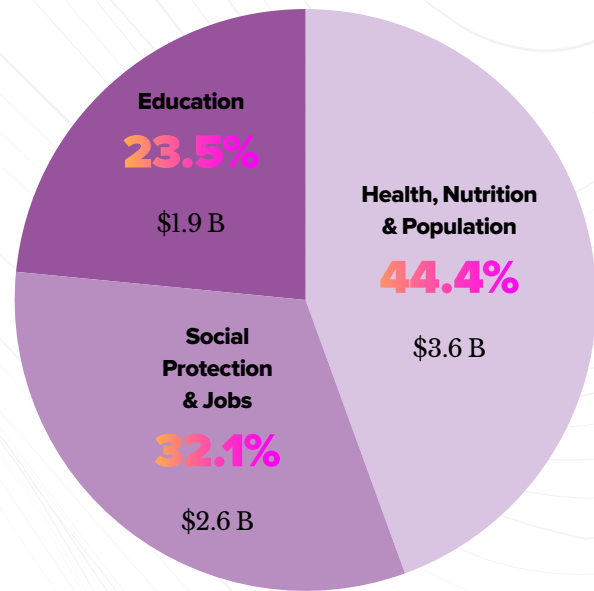
\$11.5 billion

New investments championing women and girls in Africa since the launch of the AFR HCP

9 out of 10

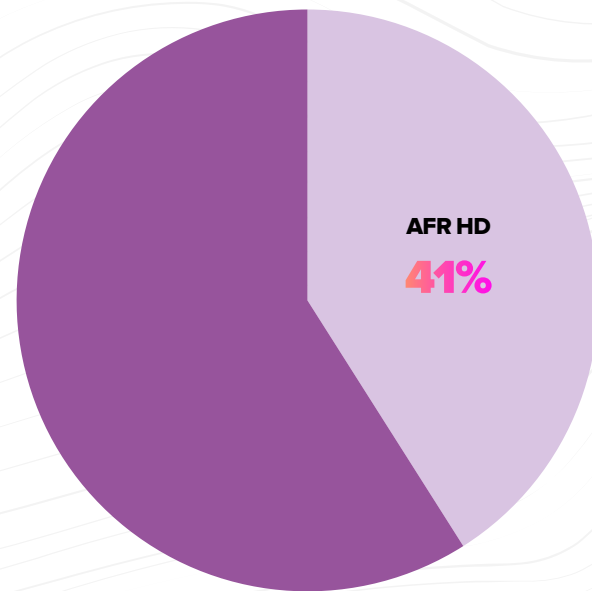
World Bank development policy operations in Africa in FY22 support reforms that bolster human capital

Africa human development investments



Investments are being implemented across key social sectors.

World Bank FY22 lending on human development



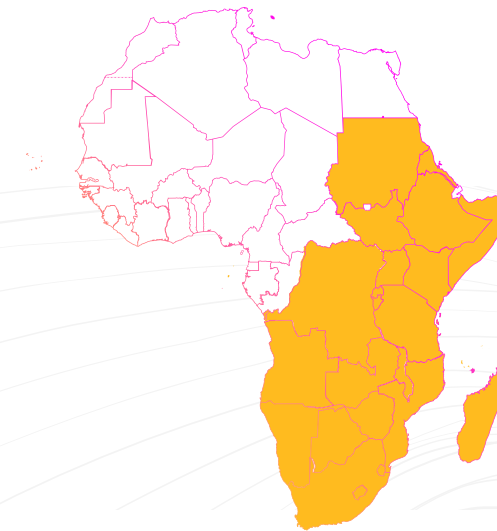
Over 40% of the World Bank's total human development portfolio is focused on Africa.

Our Impact

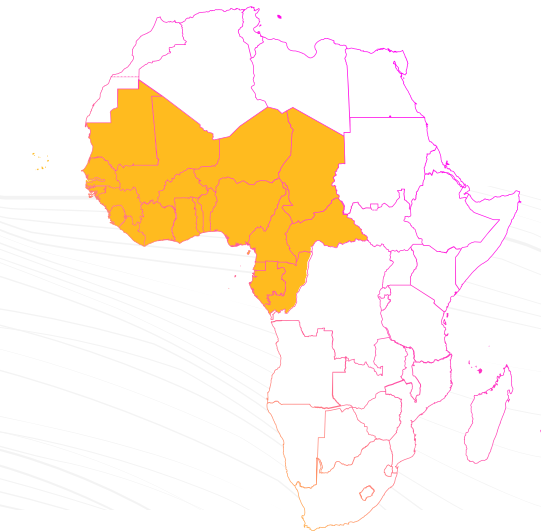
Putting human capital on the map

We continue to sustain momentum on the Africa HCP, working closely with governments, development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, and multiple stakeholders to pave the way for short-, medium- and long-term development goals for ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. From investing in health, education,

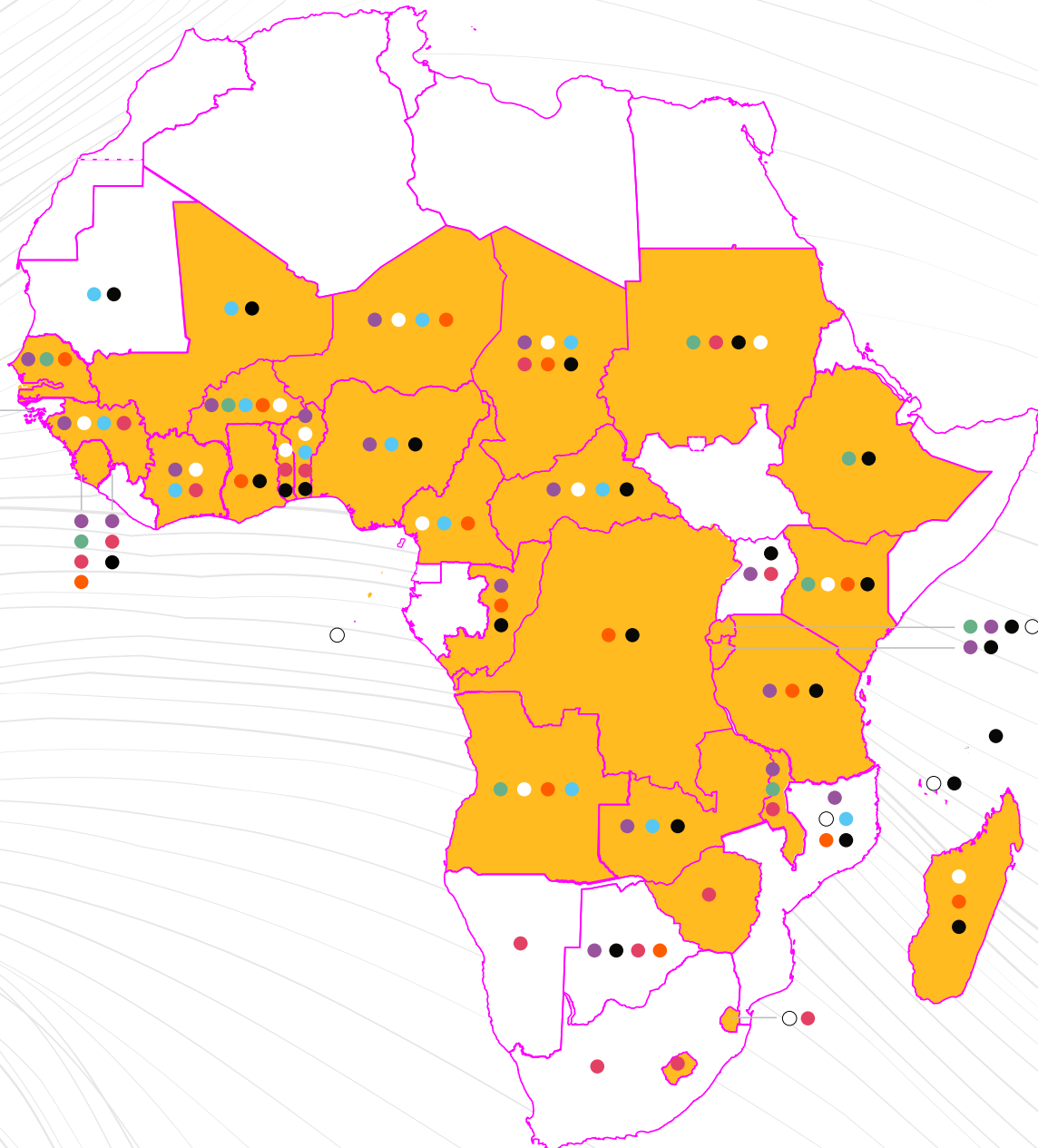
social protection, and jobs, to improving services and infrastructure, and providing water, sanitation, and reliable digital connectivity, our human capital projects focus on saving lives and livelihoods, and protecting the vulnerable, while at the same time strengthening efforts for economic growth.



The World Bank's EASTERN & SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION – AFE – is a geographically, culturally and economically diverse region of 26 countries stretching from the Red Sea in the North to the Cape of Good Hope in the South and home to about 700 million of Africa's people.



The WESTERN & CENTRAL AFRICA REGION – AFW – is home to about half a billion people and encompasses 22 countries that spread across semi-arid areas in the Sahel, large coastal areas on the Atlantic Ocean, and along the Gulf of Guinea.



32 countries

have joined the World Bank's Human Capital Project

The Africa HCP is a catalyst for a wide range of projects, analytical work, cross-sector collaborations, knowledge-sharing, and innovations investing in Africa's people.



26 countries

have an explicit human capital or human development pillar in their Country Partnership Framework with the World Bank



8 countries

have developed their own Human Capital Plans



18 countries

are implementing development policy operations with a human capital pillar



13 countries

have cross-sectoral women and girls empowerment projects



16 countries

have benefitted from human capital reviews to identify their specific human capital challenges and opportunities



15 countries

having conducted human capital workshops and seminars



25 countries

have benefitted from public expenditure reviews with a human development focus



Our Stories

Adaptive Social Protection: Building resilience to shocks

Social protection programs are a proven way to get people out of poverty, improve their education and health, and support them in times of shock and crisis. The 2022 Africa Pulse reports that Sub-Saharan Africa has seen a remarkable expansion in access to social safety net programs over the past two decades with, just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 45 countries in the region having introduced social safety net programs to tackle chronic poverty.

In view of the pressing challenges posed by rapidly increasing urbanization and informality and increasing vulnerability to shocks, social protection systems in Africa can diversify the objectives and instruments to enhance protection for all, including women and girls.

Expanding and diversifying social protection programs beyond safety nets serve as a platform for equity, opportunity, resilience, and jobs, and helps strengthen economic resilience and responsiveness to shocks, particularly for vulnerable populations and households. This includes social insurance, savings and labor market programs that contribute to economic resilience, build human capital, promote more productive and shock resilient livelihoods, and deliberately engage women to advance their empowerment.

Zambia: Giving a hand up not handout

In Zambia, families are benefitting from cash transfers and programs that support women's livelihoods and keep girls in school — all supported by the World Bank's Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) Project.

GEWEL is providing a hand-up out of poverty for hundreds of thousands of people. Cash transfers have helped families feed and educate their children. Primary school attendance is up by 10%. Families have increased the land they farm by 18%, maize production by 8%, and their livestock by 21%. Support is enabling men and women to start small businesses and keep their children in school for longer.

Before Subeta Nkumba, was enrolled in the social cash transfer (SCT) plan in Siavonga District, Southern province, the 53-year-old widow could not afford to feed her family three meals per day.

But since she started receiving benefits in 2017, a lot has changed in her life.

“When I started receiving this money, I didn't want to use it for unproductive things, but decided to invest in my small business,”

Subeta Nkumba,
Business Owner



Using money from the SCT, Subeta has managed to build a small trading shop, and has plans to build a small house and renting it out to earn more income.

Looking at how much the SCT, a program available through the Girls Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) Project, has helped in growing her business, Subeta is encouraging other SCT beneficiaries to invest the money they receive into businesses and other income generating activities.

All over the world, including in Zambia, social protection programs are a proven way to get people out of poverty, improve their education and health, and support them in producing more, to help themselves and the economy.

A new World Bank-produced photobook, A Hand-up, not a Hand-out, showcases beneficiaries through their voices and stories which bring the GEWEL project to life. The book highlights beneficiaries under the Supporting Women's Livelihoods program (SWL), Keeping Girls in School (KGS) program and SCT.

Girls such as Rose Tembo, a beneficiary under KGS, a beneficiary of the SWL program. For Rose, the support from GEWEL helped her to complete high school and is now a student at North End University.



“If it was not for KGS, it would have been very difficult for me to complete secondary education because my family could not afford,”

Rose Tembo,
Beneficiary under KGS

Social protection programs such as GEWEL are becoming increasingly important as Zambians endure multiple shocks such as back-to-back droughts and the negative effects of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

It is estimated that 58% of Zambians were poor by 2020. This means that 2.3 million more Zambian people fell into poverty on top of the 8.4 million that were already poor in 2015, increasing the number of people needing social protection.

“The World Bank estimates that, globally, 36% of very poor people have escaped extreme poverty because of such social safety nets,”

Sahr Kpundeh,
World Bank Country Manager for Zambia.

“Evaluations internationally and in Zambia also show that poor families invest more in health and education because of this support, therefore if SCT is used wisely, it has great potential to help people escape from extreme poverty.” says World Bank's Sahr Kpundeh.

Stella Zulu, a 58-year-old woman from Chisoni Village, Nyimba District, has become an entrepreneur with support from SWL.



“I never thought I could run my own business,” Stella said. “But because of the three weeks training in life and business skills, and belonging to Titukuke Savings Group, I've been able to buy cement to build a house/grocery shop.”

Stella Zulu

To date, 95,000 women have been reached under the SWL and over 58,000 girls reached under KGS.

“GEWEL is a cash plus social protection program that supports the poorest families in Zambia with cash transfers, empowers girls from those families to complete their secondary education, and supports women in starting their own small businesses. So far, the project has shown positive contribution to reducing poverty in Zambia,”

Emma Hobson,
World Bank Senior Social Protection Specialist and Task Team Leader

The Government of Zambia recognizes the importance of social protection in its vision and strategies for reducing poverty and improving development. These commitments are reinforced in the National Social Protection Policy and its framework, which provide a strong rationale for a scaled-up and well-financed social protection sector, including government’s partnership with cooperating partners to implement the Girls Education and Women’s Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) project.

+973,000
families received cash transfer in
2021 — 25% of Zambia’s population,
with plans to reach 30% in 2022

+59,000
girls in 39 districts have received
support to cover the cost of their
secondary school education

75,000
women have received livelihood
support, including savings groups,
life and business skills training,
and productive grants

Our Stories

COVID-19 vaccines: A path for recovering human capital

For most of 2021, the binding constraint to vaccinations in Africa was the supply of vaccines, as African countries were relying on supplies produced outside the region. Even as supplies became increasingly available, countries needed financing support to procure them.

The World Bank, in an Africa-led effort in partnership with COVAX and the African Union’s Africa Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT), is helping to accelerate the procurement of vaccine doses for millions. In FY22, our regional country programs deployed \$2.7 billion supporting 34 COVID-19 vaccination projects in Africa, focused on vaccine procurement and accelerated roll out, enabling affordable and equitable access to vaccines needed to reverse the pandemic’s health, social, and economic impact.

The African Union has set a target to vaccinate 60 percent of the continent’s population by 2022. Vaccines remain one of our most important tools for countries to get on the path to recovery, strengthen their health systems, and improve disease outbreak prevention and preparedness infrastructures and programs.

In Sub-Saharan Africa:*

Population that have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine: **23.24%** (257.6 million people).

- AFE: **25.94%** (171.4 million people)
- AFW: **19.25%** (86.2 million people)

Population fully vaccinated: **18.08%** (200.4 million)

- AFE: **21.06%** (139.2 million people)
- AFW: **13.69%** (61.3 million people)

* as of July 2022

Cabo Verde: Boosting the vaccine roll out: A nurse's story

"It's as if I had 'vaccination' written on my forehead."

Alice Bentoub,
Nurse

Tourism is a lifeline for Cabo Verde, generating 25% of its GDP and 23% of formal jobs. When COVID-19 hit, Cabo Verde closed its borders to prevent the virus from spreading. The move took a toll on people's lives and livelihoods. Tourism suddenly stopped and many Cabo Verdeans lost their job.

News about a vaccine gave hope for the summer season of 2021, but getting vaccines to more than 400,000 people spread across 10 islands was no small endeavor. Thanks to a strong health system and a sound supply strategy, Cabo Verde has become a model for COVID-19 response. It has much to teach its neighbors on how to carry out vaccination campaigns.

When the pandemic first struck, Cabo Verde was one of the world's first countries to close its borders, hoping this would be a temporary crisis. Driven by the shutdown in the tourism sector, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by 14.8% in 2020 – one of the largest reductions in Africa.

Alice Bentoub is a 44-year-old nurse, with more than 20 years of experience, all of it dedicated to the health of her community. Alice was the first person to get vaccinated on the island. She is known as "Tia" or "Aunty Alice" in her community, where everyone knows and trusts her.

"I lost my grandmother to COVID last year because my aunt did not want her mother to get vaccinated. I was devastated. This should not have happened,"

Alice says. This tragic event fueled her drive to vaccinate her entire community.



"As a health worker, you have to show 'humanism,' listen to people, respect them as human beings, and be sensitive to their point of view. You need to enter into their world to convince them and explain that vaccination saves lives."

Alice and her team regularly tour the remote mountain villages on the island, sometimes walking for more than 12 hours over tough terrain to deliver lifesaving shots to residents in some of the most faraway places.

Recently, Alice concluded the end of a treacherous hike to the remote hamlet of Faja in Domingos Benta on the volcanic island of Santa Antao, where she had just vaccinated an elderly man against COVID-19. She had finally succeeded in convincing him to get his second shot. Her face radiated with pure happiness and a sense of purpose. Her passion is contagious.

Today, 100% of the adult population of her community in Ribeira Gran in Santo Antao is fully vaccinated. With the people of Cabo Verde getting vaccinated, the island nation has succeeded in reopening and positioning itself as a safe tourist destination. The story of Cabo Verde would have turned out very differently if hundreds of individuals like Tia Alice had not stepped up to support the COVID-19 response.

"The vaccine was the hope. It was the only solution to get back to a normal life."

Edson Oliveria,
owner of SunVincent Tours



+70%
of Cabo Verde's adult population is vaccinated, the third highest coverage against COVID-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa

27%
jump in vaccination coverage occurred with the launch of a digital health pass, making it mandatory to show proof of vaccination to access venues

\$15 million
from IDA has helped Cabo Verde purchase and deploy vaccines for at least 400,000 people

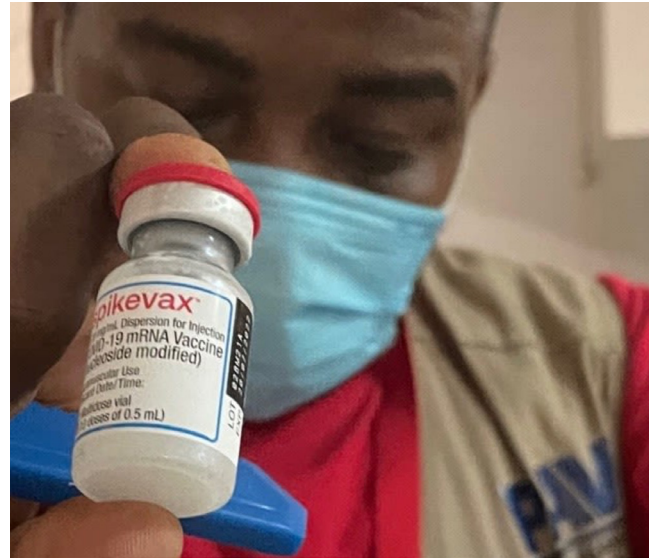
São Tomé and Príncipe: Solar-powered cold chain key to achieving last mile vaccination

São Tomé and Príncipe (STP), a two-island nation, is a hidden gem that glistens and floats off the coast of West Africa. A Portuguese-speaking archipelago with a population of 220,000 individuals, of which 96% live on the island of São Tomé and the other 4% on the island of Príncipe, STP is a small and insular state that faces challenges accessing a range of resources, particularly medical resources. This has had a direct impact on the health sector, as limited inputs affect the quality of health services available to its population. This is further compounded by sparse human resources on the island, let alone those with specialized skills.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented an unprecedented challenge and stress on São Tomé's health system. Thanks to World Bank support, the country rapidly purchased 72,000 Moderna doses through the COVAX facility and 80,000 Johnson and Johnson doses through the African Union Advanced Vaccine Task Force (AU-AVAT) platform, allowing the government to vaccinate 55% of the eligible population as of June 22, 2022.

To reach some São Tomé's most remote and isolated population, the Ministry of Health turned to innovation. This included purchasing and installing solar direct drive solutions which consist of several vaccine refrigerators and freezers directly connected to solar panels, and do not use batteries and regulators. These solutions provided São Tomé with a reliable cold chain for vitally important vaccines even in the most remote areas as they rely on the source of energy not lacking in São Tomé – the sun!

More than half of the resources from the World Bank's additional support came from the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Umbrella



Program (HEPR Program), which provided the country with the flexibility to use the resources for not only COVID-specific investments, but just as importantly, for interventions that also have a longer-term vision of strengthening the overall health system. Thanks to their innovations, STP has been able to establish a climate-friendly vaccine storage warehouse, an integral element of a responsive health system for better preparedness for future health emergencies.

To further support STP in its climate-friendly approach and energy-efficient investments, the country will receive additional support of approximately \$1 million from the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP). A feasibility study is currently underway to assess the country's capacity to introduce small, electric vehicles as part of the logistics supply chain to distribute vaccines and essential medicines. In addition to the electric vehicles, ESMAP's support will also finance the installation of solar panels and energy efficiency retrofitting of warehouses which provide immunization services. To complement this, the Green Climate Fund has selected STP as one of only nine countries to receive support for the purchase of cold storage equipment such as refrigerators and freezers to enhance the country's cold chain capacity.

OUR STORIES

Our Stories The Sahel: Sustainable solutions for people, climate, and infrastructure

Cradle of a remarkable cultural heritage and land of opportunity, with a rich and dynamic population, the Sahel region, situated on the belt of land below the Sahara Desert that stretches from Africa's Atlantic Coast to the Red Sea, was historically known for its pastoral way of living, aided by abundant human and natural resources. However, due to increasing insecurity, the number of people fleeing violence in the region has quadrupled, with 2 million now displaced in their own country. With temperatures rising 1.5 times faster than in the rest of the world, the Sahel region is highly affected by climate change and fragility, which undermine food security, long-term development prospects, and opportunities for the next generation.

While the changing climate, combined with decades of conflict and rapid population growth, were already straining available resources, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed people farther into a cycle of poverty. More than 11 million people living in the Sahel face the threat of famine and 40% of children under the age of five are stunted.

The World Bank's Sahel strategy aims to protect and preserve the region's human capital by addressing these compounding problems to deliver results at scale around three interdependent areas – climate, people, and infrastructure – and investing in their capacity to prepare for, cope with, and adapt to shocks and crises.

Together with partners including the Sahel Alliance and the United Nations, the World Bank Group is providing financial support to the G5 Sahel countries - Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, notably through IDA, to support conflict prevention, resilience, and emergency responses.



OUR STORIES

Responding to the food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel

Making investments in early childhood development, including nutrition, is one of the most cost-effective development actions to yield permanent and inalienable benefits, fostering and enhancing human capital accumulation and job creation.

The World Bank has responded to the food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel by addressing food emergencies and structural challenges in the West African food system, thus contributing to international objectives such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, specifically SDG 2) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The World Bank is addressing food and nutritional security in the short-term by activating emergency response to support food and humanitarian assistance. Over the medium- to long-term, it is supporting smallholder farmers as follows:

In Burkina Faso, the World Bank supported the government's emergency response through governance, social development, and agriculture projects. Support was focused on strengthening the country's social safety nets (with \$156 million in financing), as well as on building the resilience of its food system (with \$100 million in financing). Activities related to the food system include the support of cash transfers to the poorest communities, income-generating activities, as well as access to seeds and fertilizers by farmers.

In Chad, the World Bank activated the emergency response components of the Climate Resilience Agriculture and Productivity Enhancement and the Rural Mobility and Connectivity Projects in support

of the government's COVID-19 Emergency Action Plan. The \$30 million helped 430,000 people through food distribution. It also supported 20,000 smallholder farmers with seeds and equipment.

In Mali, the World Bank is supporting the government's Emergency Response Plan and the Mali Drylands Development Project, thus activating its emergency response component. The emergency operation was implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP), which distributed food vouchers to 153,000 households, thereby covering 4 months of basic food needs.

In Niger, the World Bank is supporting various programs to help address this crisis through the Agriculture and Livestock Transformation and the Climate-Smart Agriculture Support Projects. Project activities include: (i) increasing food production and enhancing food system resilience to climate change (with climate-smart agriculture, irrigation, access to inputs and services) (\$111 million); and (ii) improving farmers' access to finance and markets (\$100 million).

The food security crisis in the Sahel is expected to be a protracted one. The war in Ukraine is expected to further exacerbate the situation by increasing global food prices, thereby driving an additional 7 to 10 million people in West Africa into a situation of food insecurity. This poses an exceptional challenge for countries that are already fiscally stressed and heavily indebted. To prevent the recurrence of food insecurity episodes, it is imperative to invest in resilience.

Further short-term relief and medium-term measures are planned, including cash and food transfers, nutritionally balanced rations through food distribution programs, as well as investments in the next season's production. However, in the long-term, the Bank will help the Sahelian countries address the underlying causes of food and nutritional insecurity in the Sahel by taking a broader food-system approach.

Our Stories

Empowering the next generation of Africa's scientists



Increased productivity, economic diversification, and structural reforms across Africa require more highly skilled and employable graduates, particularly in key fields related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as health and agriculture. The Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence (ACE) Project is helping universities in 11 countries improve the quality, quantity, and development impact of postgraduate education.

The ACE for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) at Redeemer's University in Nigeria is using its project funds, knowledge base, and collaboration with internal and external researchers to counter immediate health threats like COVID-19 and to detect and respond to future outbreaks. ACEGID is working to train a critical mass of scientists capable of using genomics-based tools to monitor, control, and eliminate infectious diseases.

“We can’t always wait for the Westernized countries to come in and solve our problems for us. We are not deficient when it comes to manpower or intelligence. Why not utilize what we have to solve our own problems?”

Grace Sename Peter

PhD Candidate in Environmental Microbiology, ACEGID



“My experience at ACEGID helped me to understand standard laboratory procedures and safety protocols better. They were the first things that I applied when I returned to Liberia, and I shared with my team here. These have helped us a lot as we work on COVID-19 samples.”

Lawrence S. Fakoli III

Master of Science Student, ACEGID and Research Associate, Division of Public Health and Medical Research, National Public Health Institute of Liberia

Africa’s scientific solutions and innovation in the fight against COVID-19

The ACEGID is actively forming and strengthening a network of national, regional, and global partners to promote and protect public health by establishing in-country genome sequencing capacity in Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. It will also train personnel in these countries.

In collaboration with the Nigeria CDC, the ACEGID was the first institution in Africa to successfully sequence genomes for the SARS-Cov-2. Since then, it has identified 55 variants of the virus, including the B.1.1.7 (United Kingdom) variant discovered in December 2020, and it has tested more than 42,000 samples from Nigeria. It has also partnered with the Nigeria CDC to train frontline health personnel in Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) diagnostic techniques, as well as the nationwide transportation of samples. As a result of these achievements, the ACEGID has been mandated by the Africa CDC to sequence all samples from African Union member states that lack sequencing capacities. Additionally, the ACEGID sequenced 216 COVID-19 samples from Cameroon.

In September 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) named the ACEGID as one of two specialized continental reference sequencing research laboratories for emerging pathogens, including the SARS-CoV-2. In collaboration with the Nigeria CDC, the ACEGID has contributed to data for policymakers by proactively countering misinformation with quality data. It has also provided awareness messages about COVID-19 preventive measures, which have helped the Government of Nigeria to make policy decisions to flatten the infection curve.

The ACEGID partnered with an information technology company to rapidly diagnose viruses and develop vaccines. It has developed a free, web-based self-screening tool available in English, as well as the different languages spoken in Nigeria, to assesses user symptoms and exposure to determine their risk. It also developed a diagnostic care kit that identifies a wide range of viruses using a paper strip, producing the results in 30 minutes. Finally, the ACEGID developed a COVID-19 vaccine candidate, which showed over 90 percent effectiveness during preclinical trials.

The ACEGID was also at the forefront of research during the Ebola outbreak, and led the response to Ebola and Lassa Fever. Sequencing the first case of Ebola in Nigeria, the ACEGID contributed to containing the epidemic through the development of rapid diagnostic test kits. It developed and patented two rapid diagnostic test kits for the Ebola and Lassa Fever viruses, providing for a diagnosis of the disease in 10 minutes.

Since 2014, over 1,000 students have completed post-graduate degrees and short-term training programs at the ACEGID in Microbiology, Pharmacy, Bioinformatics, Molecular Biology and Genomics, and the Sanger Sequencing Technique. This was achieved since the center began receiving support under the ACE series. In addition, the ACEGID’s academic staff have published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, including publications in the prestigious international journal Nature.

The ACE Impact Projects were designed to ensure that universities would continue to grow beyond the projects’ lifetime. As such, efforts are being made to build the universities’ capacity to generate external revenues and develop key partnerships within their sectors. Since the 2020 outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the field of genomics is rapidly growing in Africa. Importantly, this growth has been spearheaded by the ACEGID. Also, some of the tools being developed by the Center have the potential for commercialization, which will raise more revenues for the ACEGID.

The ACEGID will inaugurate the biggest genomics research center in Africa. Further, it was selected in May 2020 by the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University to be a part of a prestigious scientific coalition that will help establish an early warning system across the region to prevent and respond to future outbreaks, including epidemics and pandemics. This represents a timely opportunity in the efforts to defeat COVID-19.

+500 ACEGID students

+500 local and regional postgraduate and short-term students, 33% women, supported at ACEGID since 2014

+480 people trained

+480 students, health care professionals, and faculty members trained through ACEGID short-term courses

+200 publications

+200 peer-reviewed journal articles published by ACEGID’s academic staff, including in the prestigious international journal Nature



EDUCATION EMPOWERS

In Sub-Saharan Africa, each additional year of schooling raises earnings by 14% for women and 11% for men.



AFRICA'S PEOPLE ARE ITS GREATEST RESOURCE

According to the World Bank Human Capital Index, Africa operates at 40% of its potential. Investing in people can generate economic returns and add 1.8% to African countries' annual growth over the next 50 years. More and better investment in Africa's people is urgent and essential for a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The World Bank's Africa Human Capital Plan is accelerating more and better investments in people for greater equity and economic growth.



Wallpaper series posters on social protection, education, and investing in people.

Knowledge Exchange and Activities

This year, the Africa HCP has maintained and strengthened its commitment in advancing knowledge products that help countries and development stakeholders to prioritize resource use and execute evidenced-based solutions for sustainable human development outcomes. Our knowledge and learning products – which span countries, regions, and sectors – include our **advisory services and analytics (ASA)** products which offer technical assistance, through research and analysis, for stronger development objectives and strategies; **data to monitor progress toward development goals** as well as help inform evidence-based policy making and reforms; and **knowledge sharing and exchange platforms** for disseminating lessons learned and best practices on the global development agenda.

Working together with governments, partners, and stakeholders, our community of practice serves as a viable platform for shared goals for protecting and preserving Africa's human capital.

In April 2022, as part of our Annual Spring Meetings, the AFW Vice Presidency convened a ministerial-level roundtable event for an ongoing dialogue on how to build shared commitment and political will for greater investments in preparedness and health systems in the region. The Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) task team is currently preparing an ASA aimed at catalyzing and supporting a policy dialogue and operational engagement that stimulates more and better investments in health systems and emergency preparedness.

In June 2022, the Africa HCP team hosted a virtual **Knowledge Exchange Forum – Strengthening Human Capital in Africa in a Context of Multiple Crises and Fragilities** – focused on exchange of ideas and solutions on emerging crises and conflicts. Topic areas included financing and governance challenges; boosting women empowerment; pandemic preparedness and resilient health systems; tackling learning losses; and maximizing social protection. Twenty countries from across Sub-Saharan Africa participated in the Forum, with an audience including government Ministers and Directors from ministries of Finance & Planning, Health, Education, Social Protection, and Women Affairs, plus development partners and stakeholders. Broader exchange forums on climate, digital, and financing, are being proposed for the coming months.

Social Protection programs ensure Rapid & Sustained Human Capital accumulation



Wallpaper series posters on social protection, education, and investing in people.

Our Human Development climate team contributed significantly to the recently launched World Bank Group first in a series of new core diagnostic **Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs)** that integrate climate change and development considerations and help countries prioritize the most impactful actions that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost adaptation. In preparation for the upcoming 2022 UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt in November 2022, our climate team is exploring highlighting key issues around building resilience of social systems, particularly in relationship to the current food insecurity crises.

We are also finalizing a number of **policy notes and recommendations** which combine and distill existing and new research to inform discussion and dialogue. For example, our joint note with the Human Development Chief Economist's Office is looking at the current overlapping crises from the perspective of impacts on gender, health, education, social protection and jobs, and will provide policy recommendations to catch up with losses and accelerate progress. The World Bank, in partnership with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is also finalizing a policy note highlighting a set of priority reforms at the national and regional levels to enhance sustainable and inclusive growth in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) in different dimensions including human capital. This is being done in close coordination with the CEMAC PREF-Secretariat.

The World Bank launched the Sahel Education White Paper and the Western and Central Africa Education Strategy, two critical interventions around action plans to improve education access and outcomes.

We are also looking inward, **building our Africa Human Development staff's capacity** on effectiveness and operational knowledge. These have included workshops from July-December 2021 with approximately 150 task team members in 15 countries, on a shared understanding of the importance of Development Policy Operations (DPOs) as a financing instrument that supports targeted policy reforms. In addition to this, our climate team published a **climate co-benefits guidance note**, which includes a menu of climate-smart adaptation and mitigation interventions by sector that can be integrated into the design of projects and programs, including vaccine operations.

The Africa HCP team has also created a **"staff cookbook of recipes"**, a compilation of best practices, examples, and actionable tips for successful cross-sector collaboration on human capital projects. We similarly share a **monthly "wallpaper" series of thematic content** with our staff, promoting cross-team coordination streamlining the human capital narrative. Using inspirational background images for virtual meetings, the series puts a spotlight on multi-sector solutions and collaboration for human capital acceleration.

Publications



World Bank Support for Country Access to COVID-19 Vaccines (ongoing)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are/news/coronavirus-covid19/world-bank-support-for-country-access-to-covid-19-vaccines>

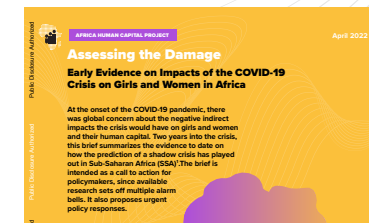
The World Bank Group is working with partners on the largest vaccination effort in history to stop the COVID-19 pandemic. New information will be shared on this website as it becomes available.



Western and Central Africa Education Strategy (June 2022)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/afw-from-school-to-jobs-a-journey-for-the-young-people-of-western-and-central-africa>

The Strategy articulates the World Bank's plan (2022–25) for supporting education in AFW countries, highlighting responses to region-wide challenges with country-specific strategies, and offering a roadmap for countries' investments in improving educational outcomes. The strategy relies on available evidence and operational experience to set priority interventions. It is not just a strategy for the education sector; it is also a strategy to bring a whole-of-society and a whole-of-government approach to foster strong cross-sector collaboration and partnerships.



What we know is only the tip of the iceberg

Evidence to date confirms that the COVID-19 crisis has had profound negative impacts on the education, health, employment and empowerment of girls and women including in SSA. Available data is still limited, but what is known to date suggests that we are seeing the tip of an iceberg. Many impacts will have long term repercussions for girls' and women's human capital. Decision makers are at a pivotal moment to invest now in women and girls to neutralize immediate but also prolonged costs to individuals, societies and economies.

Assessing the Damage: Early Evidence on Impacts of the COVID-19 Crisis on Girls and Women in Africa (May 2022)

Brief: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/37347>
Infographic: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2022/05/25/assessing-the-damage-early-evidence-on-impacts-of-the-covid-19-crisis-on-girls-and-women-in-africa>

At the onset of COVID-19, there was global concern about the negative indirect impacts the crisis would have on girls and women and their human capital. Two years into the crisis, this brief summarizes the evidence to date on how the prediction of a shadow crisis has played out in Sub-Saharan Africa. The brief further provides policy recommendations for decision-makers, including strengthening social service delivery systems to be more inclusive and resilient to crisis and shocks



Boosting Resilience Through Social Protection (April 2022)

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/37281>

Economic growth in the region is expected to decelerate in 2022 amid a global environment with multiple (and new) shocks, high volatility, and uncertainty. Social protection reforms need to strengthen economic resilience and shock responsiveness.



The State of the Africa Region World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings Event Boosting Resilience in Turbulent Times: The Role of Social Protection (April 2022)

Watch the replay: <https://live.worldbank.org/sm22/state-africa-region#resources>

This State of the Africa Region event provides an opportunity to review the macro-economic situation in the Africa region, given the recent fluctuations in commodity and food prices, and focus on social protection strategies that can help build resilience in African economies and create jobs, as they recover from multiple shocks in current troubled times.



Human Capital Ministerial Conclave (April 2022)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital/brief/human-capital-ministerial-conclave-world-bank-spring-meetings-2022>

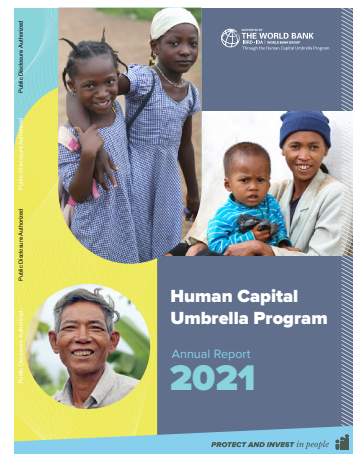
CRITICAL INVESTMENTS IN HUMAN CAPITAL FOR AN EQUITABLE RECOVERY - APRIL, 2022: On April 26th, 2022, Ministers of finance and planning, private sector leaders, and heads of foundations and agencies from over 60 countries joined the 2022 Spring Meetings Human Capital Ministerial Conclave to discuss policy priorities and solutions to overcome learning losses and restore jobs and skills.



Sahel Education White Paper: The State of Education in the Sahel (December 2021)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/sahel-education-white-paper-the-state-of-education-in-the-sahel>

Building on past gains and current strengths, the Sahel Education White Paper identifies real game-changers for countries to improve their education outcomes.



Human Capital Umbrella Program (December 2021)

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/661211647840768360/human-capital-umbrella-program-annual-report-2021>

This annual report details the activities of the Human Capital Umbrella Program and its anchor trust fund, the Advancing Human Capital Outcomes Globally Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), with operational and financial reporting as of December 2021.



Human Capital Project Year 3 Report (November 2021)

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/152711635786365470/human-capital-project-year-3-progress-report>

This report highlights the challenges and successes countries have experienced over the past year. It acknowledges that countries have struggled to stem their losses with the impact of the coronavirus on lives and livelihoods. Countries continue to invest in their people, for resilient and inclusive development, supported by the Human Capital Project.



Human Capital Ministerial Conclave World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings Event Reimagining Service Delivery in a Digital Age (October 2021)

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/614241636629681257/arresting-human-capital-losses-due-to-covid-19-reimagining-service-delivery-in-a-digital-age>

This brief summarizes the proceedings of the Human Capital Ministerial Conclave event in 2021. The conclave covered three main themes: Scalability of service delivery, Efficiency of spending on human capital, and Equity which puts people at the center of development.



Africa Human Capital Plan Year Two Progress Report: Investing in People for a Resilient and Inclusive Recovery (June 2021)

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/155781629273393266/africa-human-capital-plan-year-two-progress-report-investing-in-people-for-a-resilient-and-inclusive-recovery>

The AFR Human Capital Plan is centered on a set of gamechangers and ambitious targets that have guided the World Bank's response and support at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The gamechangers provide a framework and momentum for COVID-19 relief, restructuring, and recovery efforts to help Sub-Saharan countries and governments prioritize people and build a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future.



The State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery (December 2021)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/publication/the-state-of-the-global-education-crisis-a-path-to-recovery>

The global disruption to education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is without parallel and the effects on learning are severe. Countries have an opportunity to accelerate learning recovery and make schools more efficient, equitable, and resilient by building on investments made and lessons learned during the crisis.



Our Way Forward

Greater resilience and better data

As this first phase of Africa HCP enters its final year of implementation and we plan for the next stage, we are using lessons learned before and during the COVID-19 pandemic to make pragmatic adjustments that are more attuned to developing realities on the ground. As the landscape evolves with climate change, political instability, food insecurity, and other shocks and crises that threaten development gains, we will continue to work on strengthening policies, institutions, and investments that improve development outcomes. We will also continue to leverage our convening platform to promote human capital policy reforms, actions, and operational innovations that accelerate more and better investments in the region's human capital.

This will include strengthening our analytics, advocacy, and operational guidance in critical areas such as statistics and data highlighting human capital indicators, COVID-19 driven costs, and its impact on human capital. We will also develop a sustained Africa Community of Practice on human capital to ensure country-level relevancy, learning and ownership. The importance of crises response and recovery is high on the World Bank's agenda to help countries navigate their way out of crisis toward green, resilient, and inclusive development.

Work is underway to enable larger scale and more tailored upstream solutions built on four key components:

1. Strong support from IDA

IDA20, the 20th replenishment of the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries, positions us well for the next stepped-up phase of the Africa HCP. IDA20's financing envelope of \$93 billion comes with a special theme on Human Capital and Gender and related World Bank policy commitments, with more focus on country-level actions to respond to the pandemic and build back better and greener. The Africa region plays a crucial role in delivering on IDA20 results.

2. Increased preparedness

COVID-19 has been a wake-up call that human capital is vulnerable to shocks and that systems to build and protect human capital are often ill-prepared to deal with crises. An increased effort is needed to make systems and people more resilient to shocks, including pandemics, food shortages, conflicts, and climate change. We are ramping up support for expanded social safety nets and strengthening systems in the health, education, and social protection sectors.

3. Catalytic catch-up investments

To recover human capital losses exacted by the COVID-19 crisis, high-impact, cost-efficient catch-up investments are needed. With public resources constrained, it is imperative to support stronger public finance management for human capital to maximize available funds and improve how these resources are spent. We can also achieve change at scale by taking full advantage of technology innovations to reach larger numbers of people cost-effectively.

4. Improved human capital data collection

To better measure the full impact of the COVID-19 crisis and build back better, we must improve and strengthen the quality, timeliness, and relevance of national data collection systems. We must build on successful programs like Service Delivery Indicators (SDI) surveys, which collect data in schools, clinics, and hospitals to provide the crucial evidence needed to improve the quality and accessibility of education and health services.



Africa Human Capital Plan

Results Framework

INDICATOR	BASELINE (FY18)	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22 (EXPECTED)	TARGET (FY23)	NOTES
Volume of IBRD/IDA commitments for human development sectors	\$4.1 billion	\$3.2 billion	\$7.7 billion	\$8.9 billion (\$5.43bn AFE and \$3.47bn AFW)	\$8.2 billion (\$4.38bn AFE and \$3.81bn AFW)	\$5 billion annual average	On track
Number of WBG Global Practices with targets on human capital in the region	4	4	4	4	4	7	In progress
Share of Development Policy Operations with a significant Human Capital focus	70%	71%	Greater than 70%	90%	64.70%	At least 80%	Reduction due to post COVID wave reallocations to other areas.
Number of high-fertility countries with integrated or coordinated projects across sectors to support women empowerment and the demographic transition	7	9	11	13	17	20	In progress
Volume of IBRD/IDA commitments for human development projects in FCV countries	\$514million	\$1.5 billion	\$3 billion	\$3.9 billion (\$1.6bn AFE and \$2.3bn AFW)	\$3.71 billion (\$1.61bn AFE and \$2.09bn AFW)	\$831 million	On track
Countries actively engaged in HC planning				12	12	20	In progress
Number of partnerships or coalitions supported by the WB around the Human Capital agenda in Africa, including with development partners, CSOs, faith organizations and traditional leaders.	0		6	7	9	10	In progress
Number of African Human Capital Champions and influencers mobilized on the Human Capital agenda	5	5	8	8	8	15	In progress