

# COVID-19

## in Africa

### A challenging road to recovery

### Ten key challenges for Africa's health, society and economy - insights from the IIAG



**Mo Ibrahim**  
FOUNDATION







# 2020 IIAG Framework



## Citizens' Voices





# Challenge 'zero': Only 6.8% of Africa's population is fully vaccinated

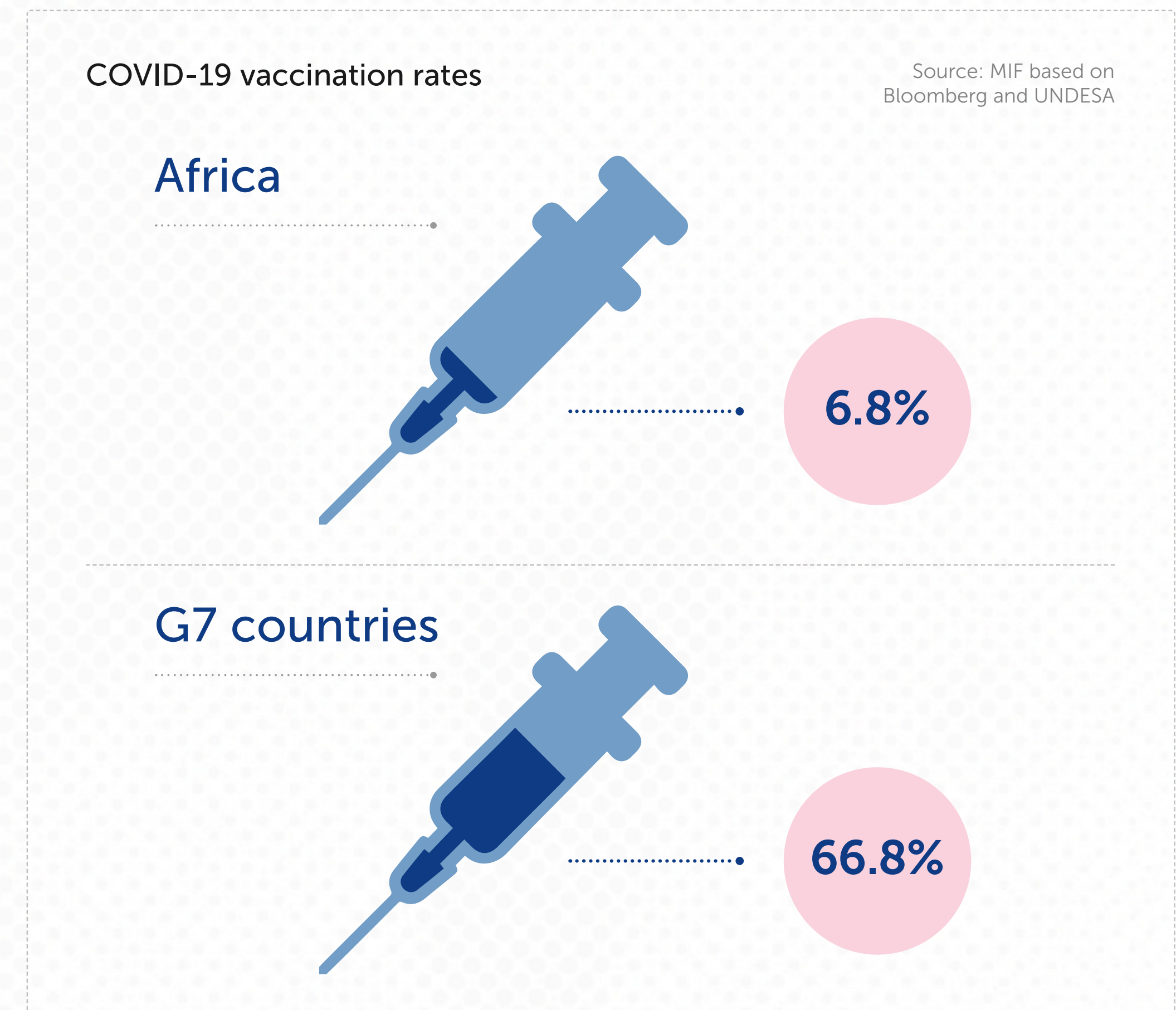
The vaccine challenge is the most urgent hurdle to overcome in Africa.

No COVID-19 recovery, economic or social, can be achieved on the continent without a significant increase in vaccination rates.

This is also key for the global recovery, as no one is safe until everyone is safe.

Africa accounts for just 2.9% of the 7.6 billion vaccines administered globally.

As of 18 November 2021, just 6.8% of Africa's population has been fully vaccinated

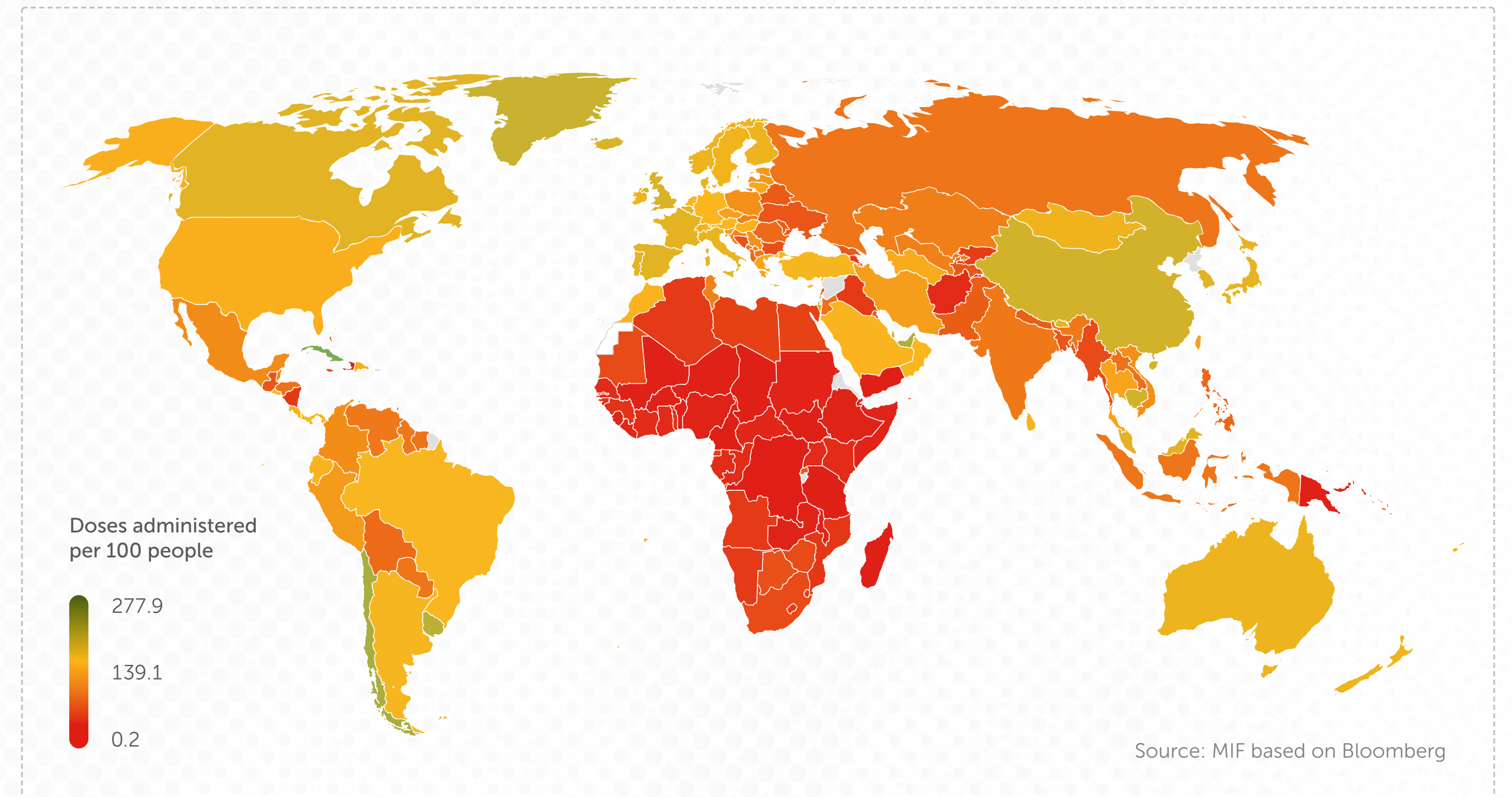




# Less than 10% of African countries to hit key COVID-19 vaccination goals

- Only five African countries will likely hit the WHO 2021 year-end target of fully vaccinating 40% of their people:
  - Seychelles, Mauritius and Morocco, have already met the goal;
  - Tunisia and Cabo Verde, are projected to hit the target.
- Africa needs to vaccinate 70% of its population by the end of 2022 to have a chance of controlling the COVID-19 pandemic.

World countries: COVID-19 vaccine doses administered (18 November 2021)





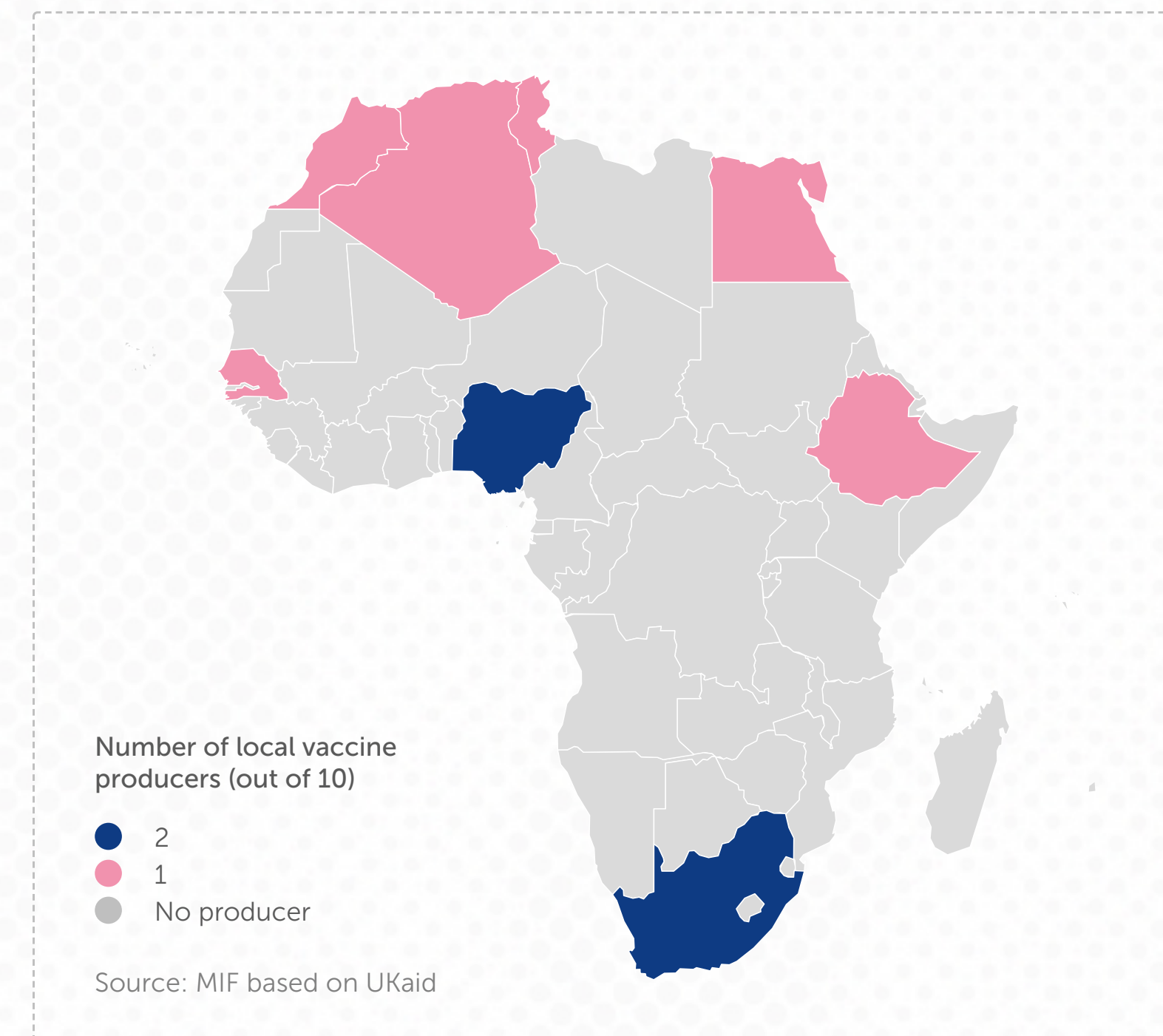
# Africa's vaccine autonomy is an immediate priority

Africa accounts for 25% of global vaccine demand but relies on imports for 99% of its routine vaccine needs.

Only 10 local vaccine value chain players currently operate in Africa, mostly in downstream steps (fill and finish, packaging and labelling, import to distribute).

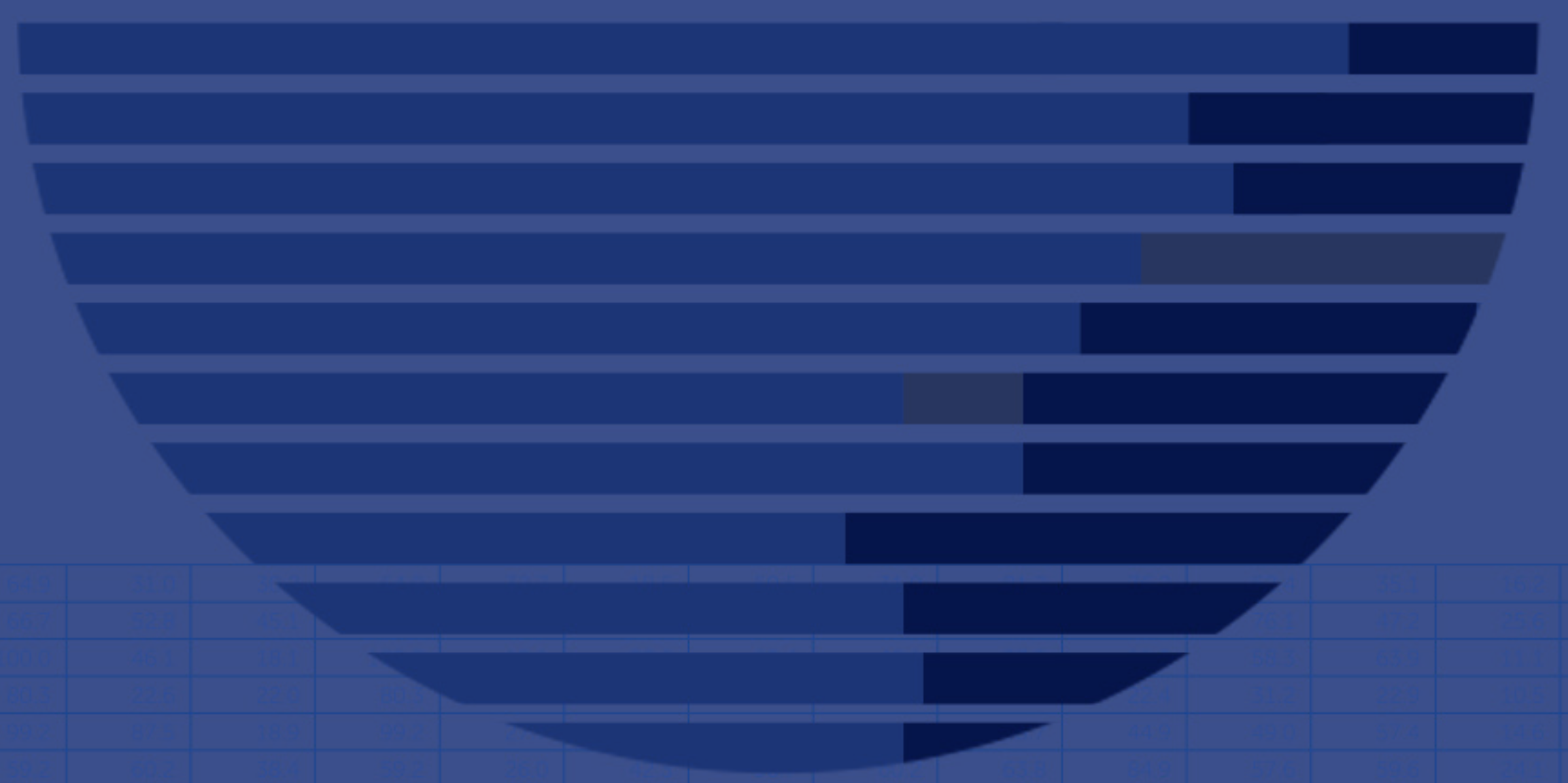
The Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), launched at the joint African Union/AfCDC Summit on Vaccine Manufacturing in April 2021, aims at building local capacity to cover 60% of annual production of Africa's routine vaccine needs by 2040.

African countries: local vaccine value chain players (2020)



The 10 local vaccine value chain players are located in Nigeria (2), South Africa (2), Algeria (1), Egypt (1), Ethiopia (1), Morocco (1), Senegal (1) and Tunisia (1).





Health

Securing Africa's  
health sovereignty  
is imperative



# Challenge 1: No sound health policy without sound data

- Civil registration is key to assess needs and define policies but also crucial for citizens' access to public services.
- The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the already weak African civil registration capacities.
- Due to data limitations, COVID-19 cases and deaths could be greatly underestimated.
- Already low vaccination rates might be far worse, as unregistered population remains unaccounted for and is at risk of being left out by vaccination campaigns.

Over 50% of children in Africa do not have a legal existence



Only 10% of deaths are registered in Africa, compared to 98% in Europe



# Civil Registration in the 2020 IIAG: Stuttering performance since 2010

The African average performance in *Civil Registration* is worse in 2019 than in 2010, driven by deteriorating death registration systems.



Highest scoring country (2019)	Algeria/ Cabo Verde/ Namibia
Lowest scoring country (2019)	Eritrea/ Somalia
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)*	Liberia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Angola, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)	Eritrea, Mali, DR Congo, Egypt, Sudan

\* 3 more countries have improved at the same rate as Angola, Chad and Côte d'Ivoire, namely Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia and Mozambique

For 11 countries deterioration in *Death Registration* has accelerated since 2015

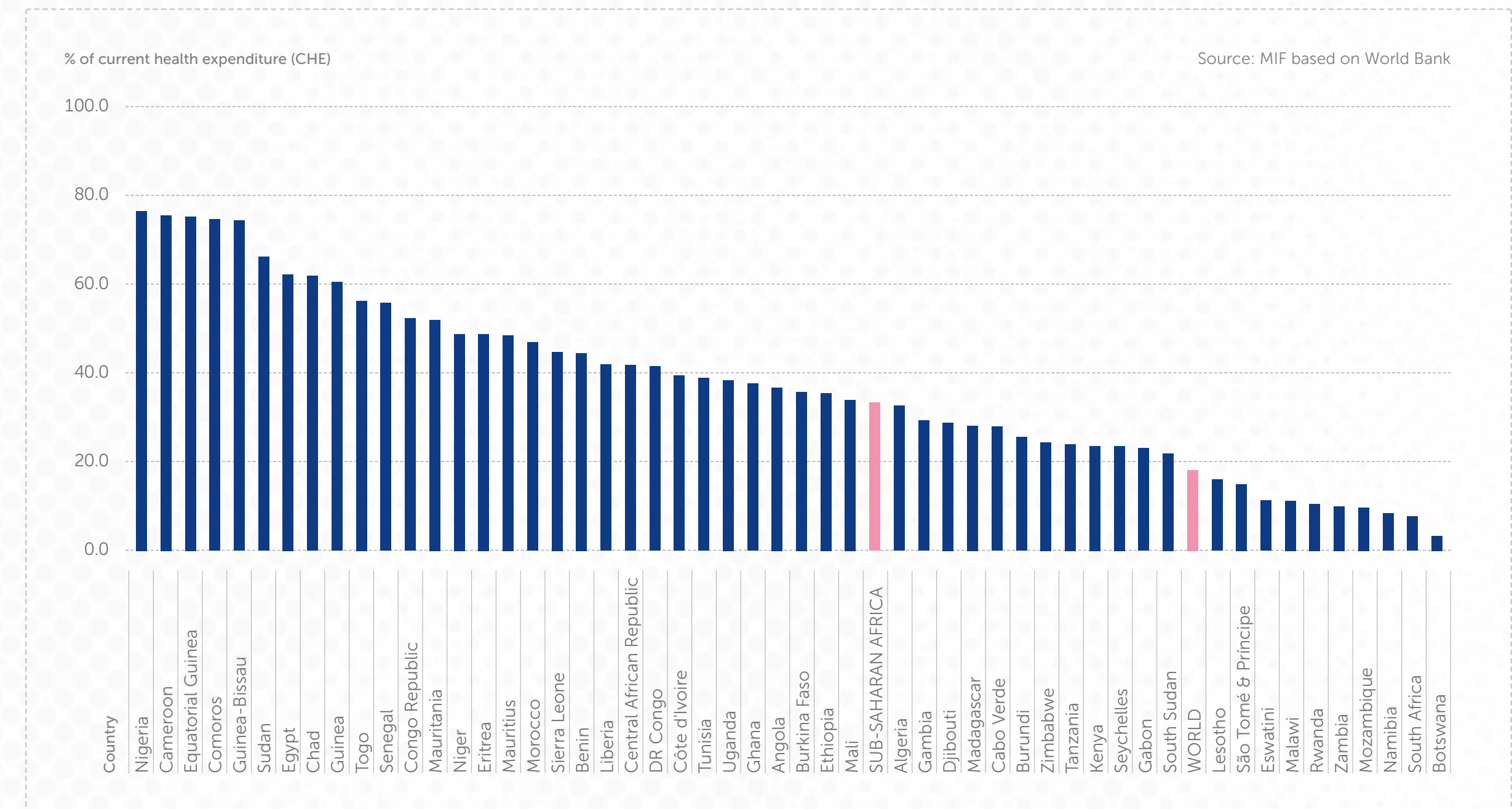


# Challenge 2: Healthcare is neither affordable nor accessible for most in Africa

- High out-of-pocket expenses and insufficient public investment mean that few Africans have access to affordable healthcare.
- Only ten African countries, hosting less than 9% of the continent's population, provide their citizens with free and universal healthcare in 2021.
- As of 2018, the Abuja Declaration target of spending 15% of annual government budgets on health was only met by 7 countries at least once since 2001.

**In 2018, domestic public health expenditure as a share of GDP amounted to only 1.9% in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to a global average of 5.9%**

African countries: out-of-pocket health expenditure (2018)



In 42 African countries out-of-pocket expenses on health as a share of current health expenditure are higher than the global average.



# Access to Healthcare in the 2020 IIAG: A major stumbling block

In 2019, healthcare for Africa’s citizens:

- is less accessible to all than in 2010;
- and is less affordable compared to 2015.

### African average

2019 score/100.0	45.5
10-year trend (2010-2019)	Improvement (+0.4)
Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend	Warning Signs 

### African countries

10-year trend (2010-2019) by number of countries



Highest scoring country (2019)	Botswana
Lowest scoring country (2019)	South Sudan
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)	Mali, Ethiopia, Côte d’Ivoire, Comoros, Morocco
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)	Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Uganda, Namibia, Eritrea

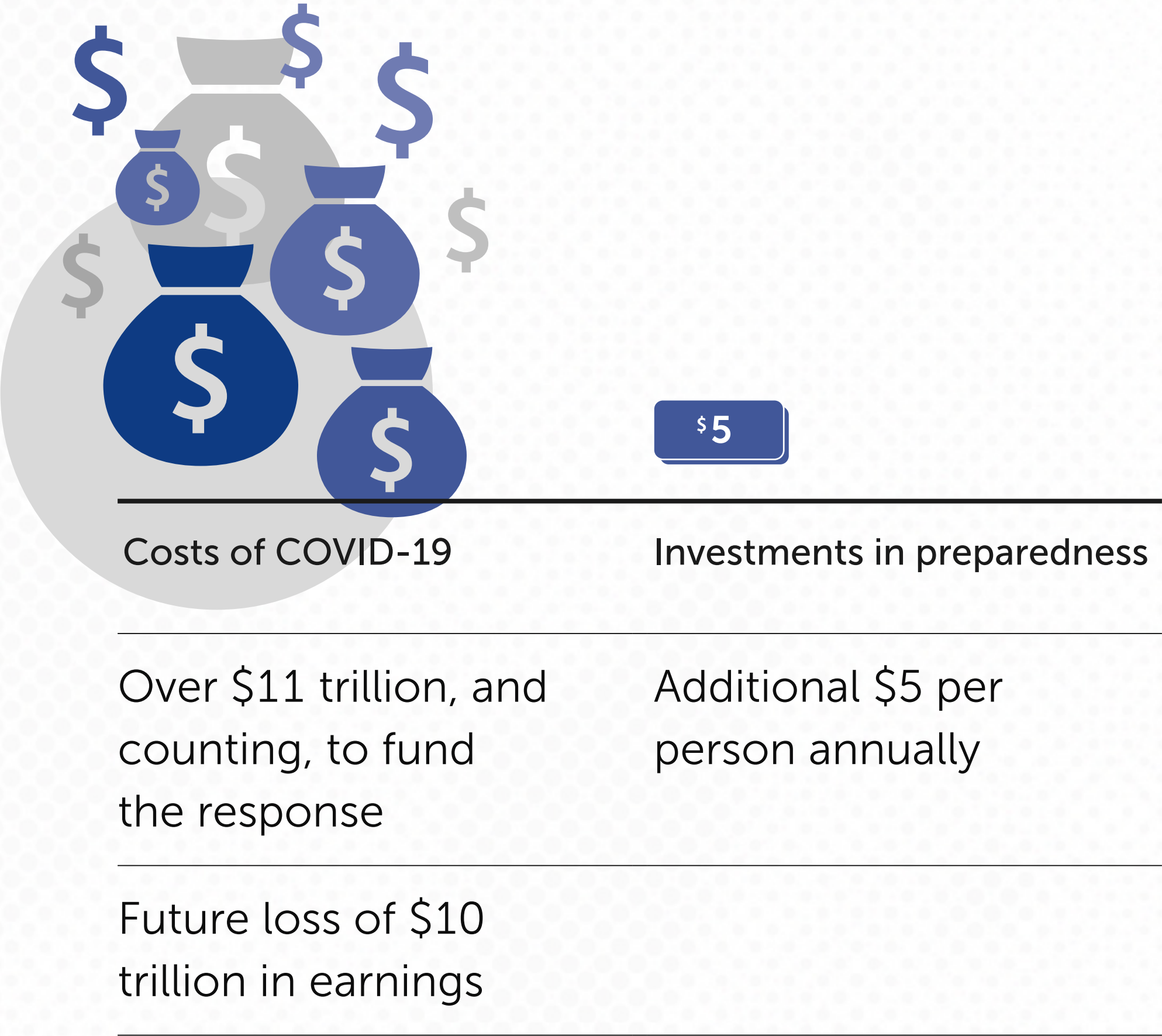
 30 countries have deteriorated in Access to Healthcare between 2015 and 2019



# Challenge 3: Most African countries are unprepared for future pandemics

- The COVID-19 pandemic is not an anomaly: roughly one new disease is emerging each year.
- In Africa, only an early and coordinated response across the continent, building on experience from previous pandemics, managed to temper a chronic lack of specialised equipment and highly qualified staff.

Investing in preparedness is key and brings massive investment returns for global health security.

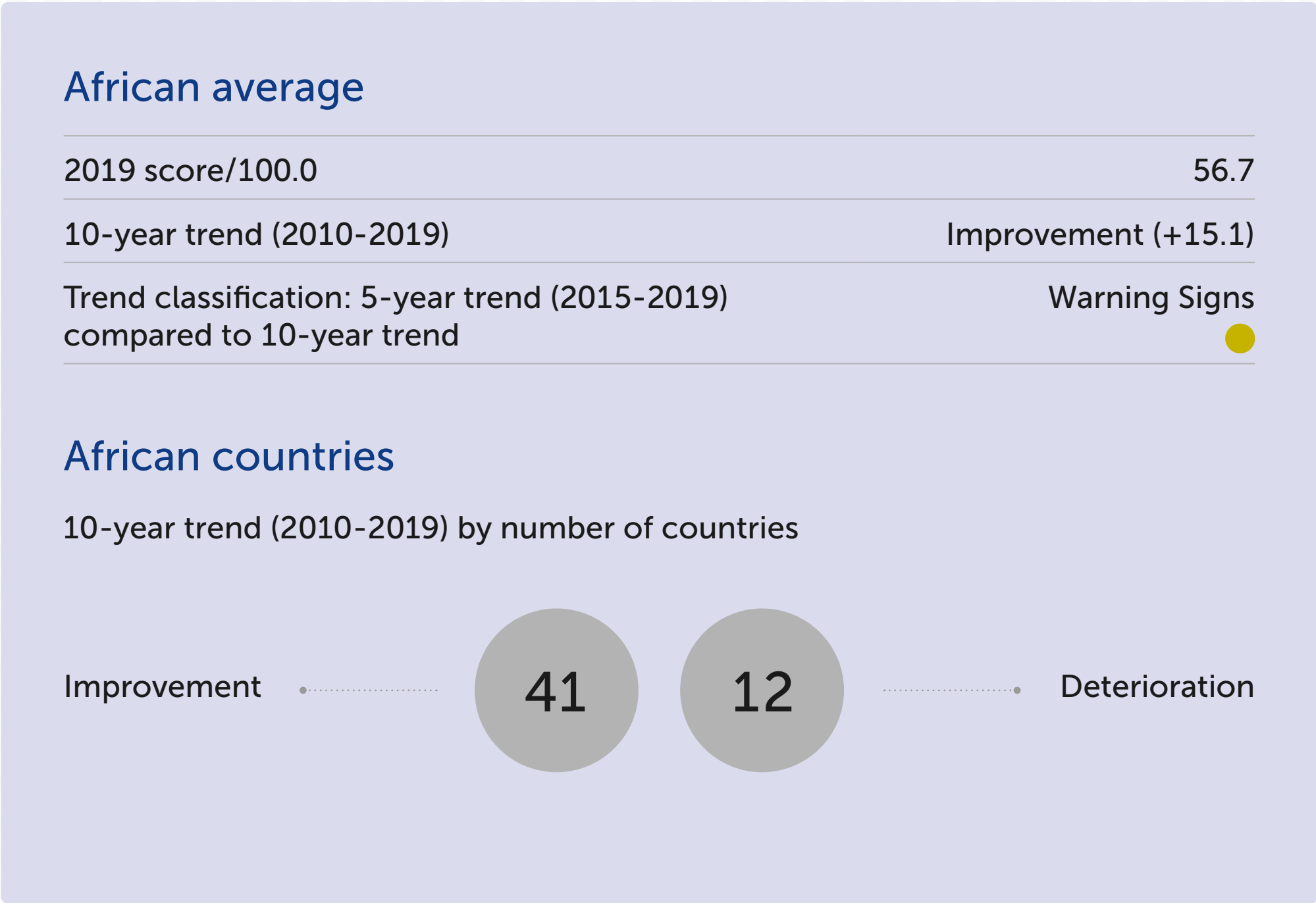




# Compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR) in the 2020 IIAG: Progress since 2010, but still very low capacity

Despite improvement in 2019 compared to 2010, warning signs have emerged since 2015.

In 2019, Africa performs worse than all other world regions in all IHR core capacities.

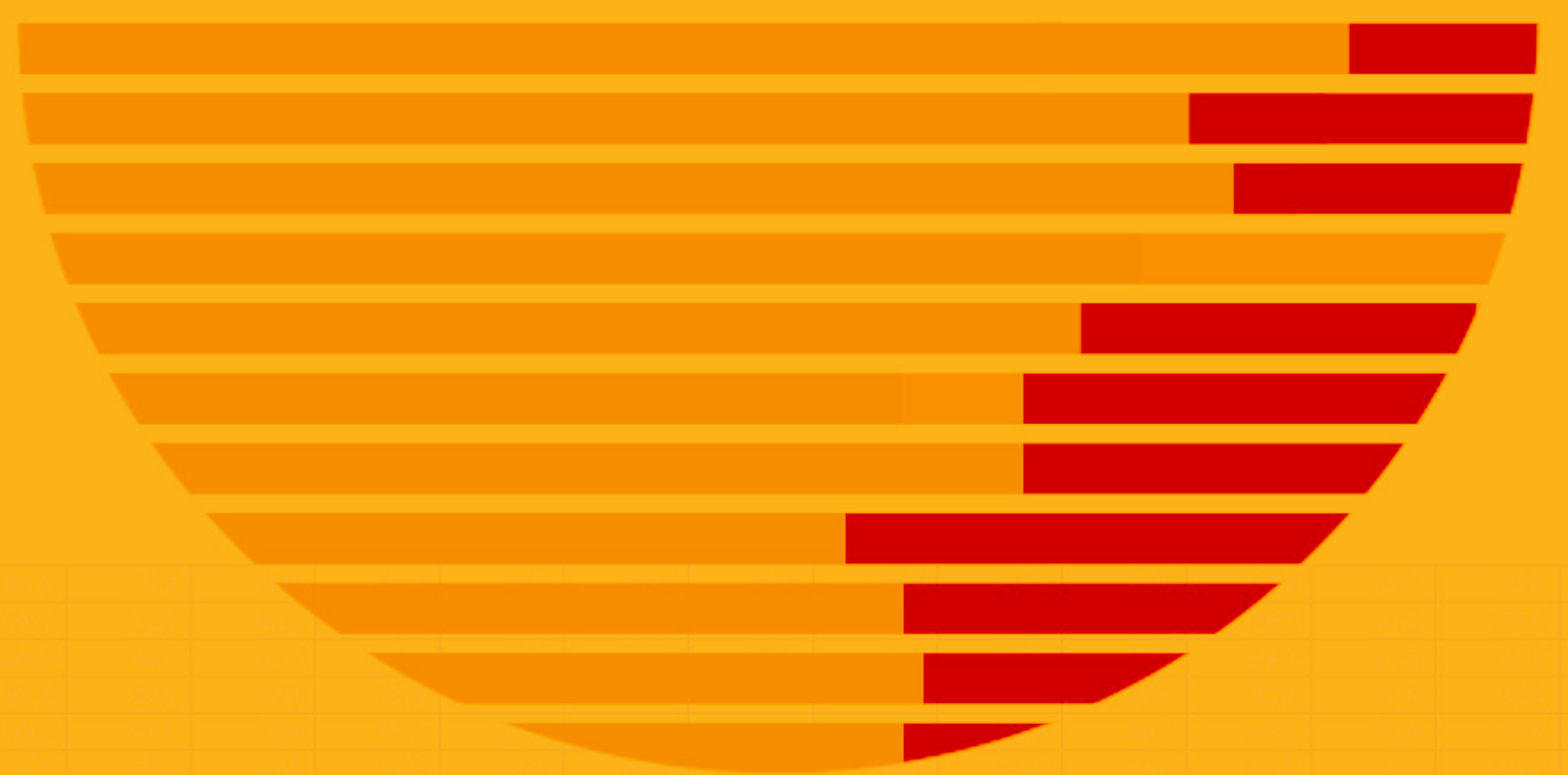


Highest scoring country (2019)	Egypt
Lowest scoring country (2019)	São Tomé and Príncipe
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)	Seychelles, Togo, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mozambique
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)	Benin, Gambia, Mali, São Tomé and Príncipe, Malawi



Even if 41 countries have improved in *Compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR)* since 2010, 14 of them have registered a deterioration since 2015





## Society

Education, gender  
equality and civic  
freedoms threatened  
by COVID-19 impact

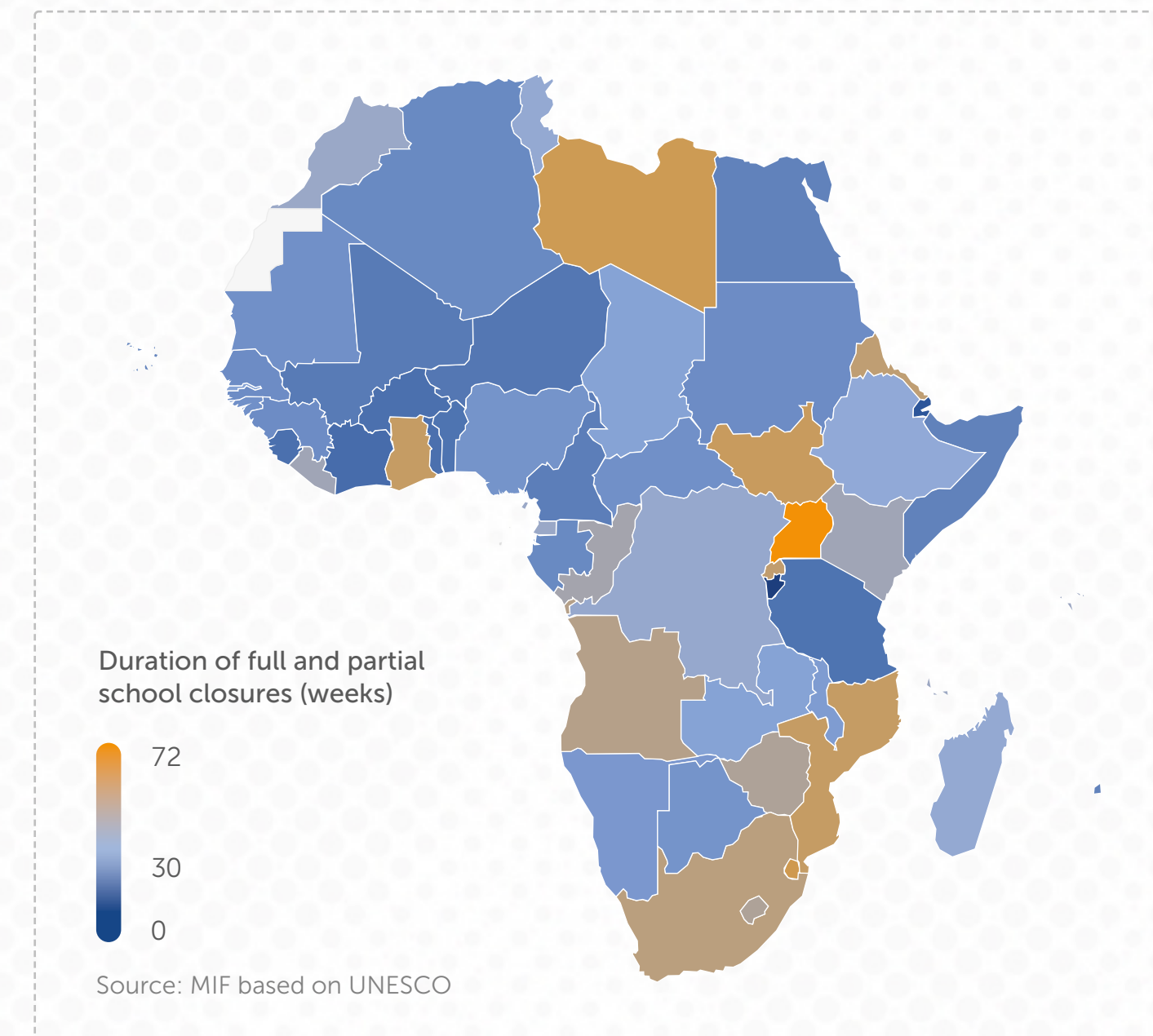


# Challenge 4: In sub-Saharan Africa, being out of school means out of learning

- Already pre-pandemic, sub-Saharan African students had the lowest minimum proficiency levels globally.
- A lack of adequate remote learning opportunities and the digital divide exacerbate the impact of COVID-19 school closures.
- Girls are often the first to be pulled out of school, and are less likely to return or benefit from remote learning.

The impact of COVID-19 on education, worsened by the lack of remote learning tools, has further exacerbated Africa's learning crisis.

African countries: duration of school closures (March 2020 - August 2021)



School closures in some African countries reached peaks of more than one year.

89% of students in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to household computers, and 82% have no internet access at home.



# Education in the 2020 IIAG: A decade of deterioration in Education Quality

In 2019, Africa’s schools are better staffed, enrolment and completion rates are higher, and access to education is more equal, including for girls, than in 2010. However, concerningly, the quality of education in Africa has deteriorated in the same period.

### African average

2019 score/100.0	49.3
10-year trend (2010-2019)	Improvement (+1.7)
Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend	Slowing Improvement 

### African countries

10-year trend (2010-2019) by number of countries



Highest scoring country (2019)	Mauritius
Lowest scoring country (2019)	Somalia
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)	Burundi, Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Sierra Leone
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)	Libya, Eritrea, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Tunisia

*Education Quality* is the 7<sup>th</sup> most deteriorated IIAG indicator (out of 79) since 2010 with 30 countries declining.

In 2019, 5 countries receive the lowest possible score of 0.0 for *Education Quality*: Central African Republic, Eritrea, Niger, Somalia and South Sudan.



# Challenge 5: Women and girls bear the brunt of COVID-19 fallout

- Women and girls are severely impacted by the economic and financial consequences of the pandemic.
- COVID-19 has reversed progress in maternal care and childcare due to restricted services.
- Lockdown measures have exposed girls and women to increased levels of sexual and gender-based violence.

The majority of COVID-19 mitigation measures by African countries are not gender-sensitive.

**Around 92% of women in sub-Saharan Africa are working in the informal sector with very limited social protection**

**In 10 African countries, the maternal mortality rate between February 2020 and July 2020 increased compared to the same time period in 2019**

**According to surveys in Eswatini, South Africa and Uganda, at least 70% of women have felt an increase in violence since the start of the pandemic**




# Gender in the 2020 IIAG: Progress since 2015 impaired by COVID-19 impact

Better socioeconomic opportunities for women and girls since 2010 have been a major driver of progress.

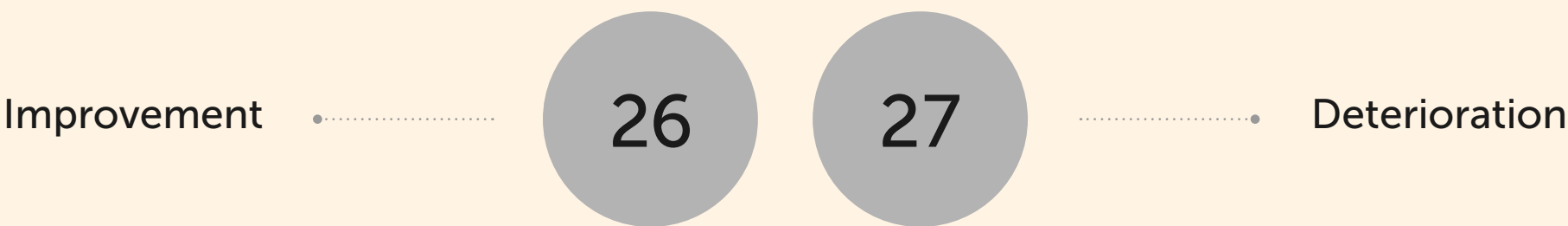
However, legal mechanisms to protect women against violence remain weak on the continent.

### African average

2019 score/100.0	50.2
10-year trend (2010-2019)	Deterioration (-0.2)
Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend	Bouncing Back 

### African countries

10-year trend (2010-2019) by number of countries



Highest scoring country (2019)	Seychelles
Lowest scoring country (2019)	Equatorial Guinea
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)	Somalia, Kenya, Gambia, Congo Republic, Zambia
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)	Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Uganda, Ghana, South Africa

In 2019, *Laws on Violence Against Women* is the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest scoring indicator of the IIAG (out of 79).

Gambia is the only country of 54 to have made progress in all *Gender* indicators since 2010.



# Challenge 6: COVID-19 has further shrunk civic space and media freedom

- Since the early 2000s, the space for civil society organisations (CSOs), media and activists in Africa has been shrinking.
- A large majority of African countries adopted measures restricting democratic standards with media freedom being the most violated.
- Already pre-pandemic Afrobarometer data showed that across 34 African countries, less than half of citizens trusted their political leaders.
- Long-standing concerns by African citizens about their public leadership have been amplified by the pandemic.

Since 2010, *Civil Society Space* is the 6<sup>th</sup> most declined IIAG indicator (out of 79) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> most declined since 2015.

Between March 2020 and June 2021, 40 countries applied major restrictions to media freedom at least once.



# Media Freedom in the 2020 IIAG: Concerning deterioration since 2010 has worsened since 2015

Compared to 2010, media freedom on the continent has become much more restricted. The situation has worsened since 2015.

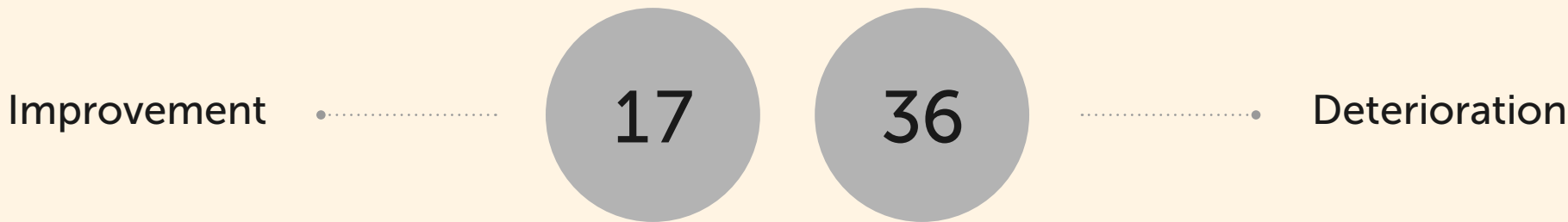
Media have become more partial, are facing higher levels of censorship and journalists are exposed to more harassment.

## African average

2019 score/100.0	53.7
10-year trend (2010-2019)	Deterioration (-4.8)
Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend	Increasing Deterioration ●

## African countries

10-year trend (2010-2019) by number of countries

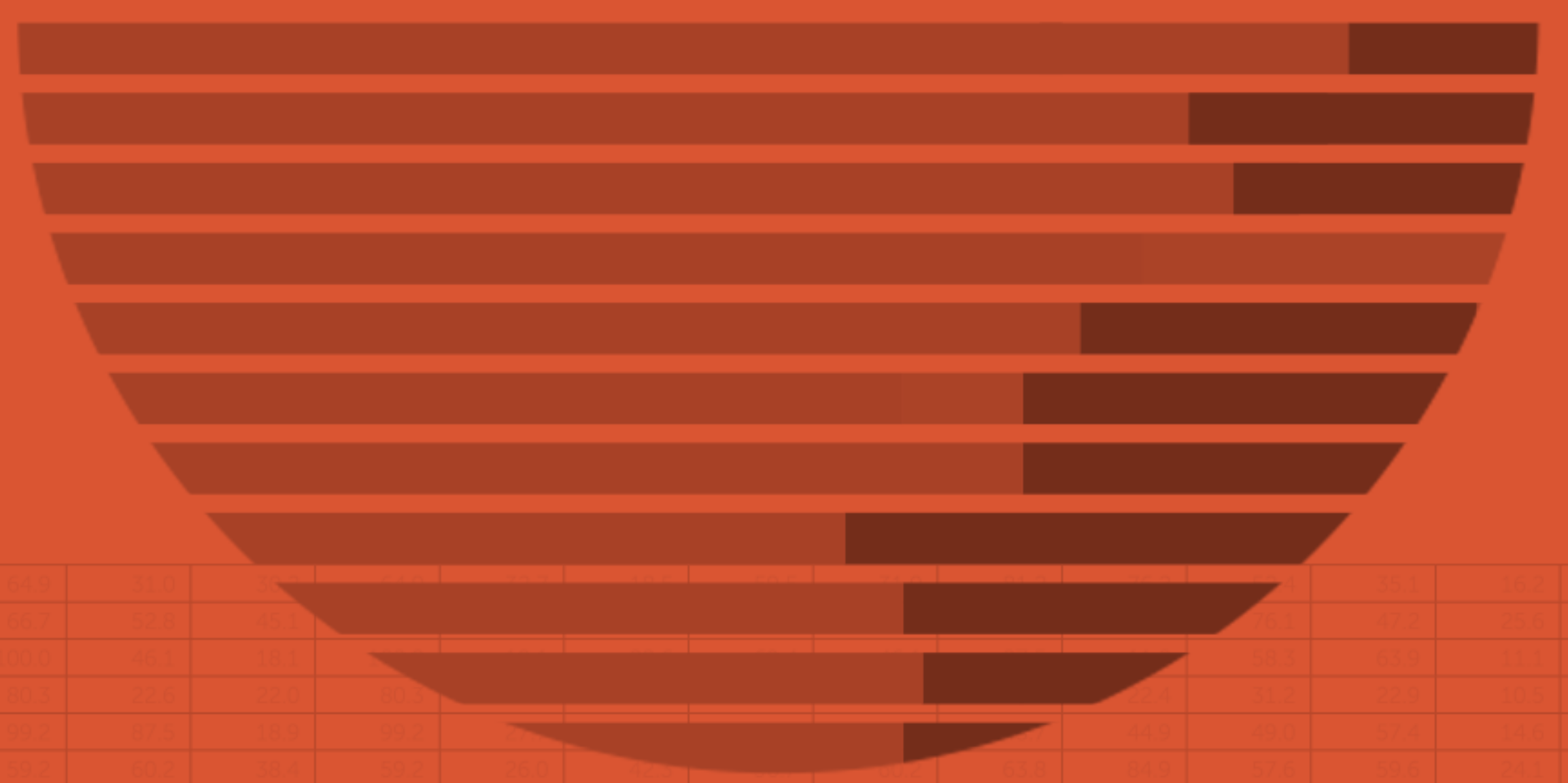


Highest scoring country (2019)	Cabo Verde
Lowest scoring country (2019)	Eritrea
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)	Gambia, Tunisia, Libya, Ethiopia, Angola
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)	Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Benin, Algeria

In 2019, 26 countries receive the lowest possible score of 0.0 for *Absence of Media Censorship*.

Gambia rose from the bottom 10 in 2010 to the top 10 in 2019.





Economy

Potential for  
recovery, provided  
that hurdles are  
overcome



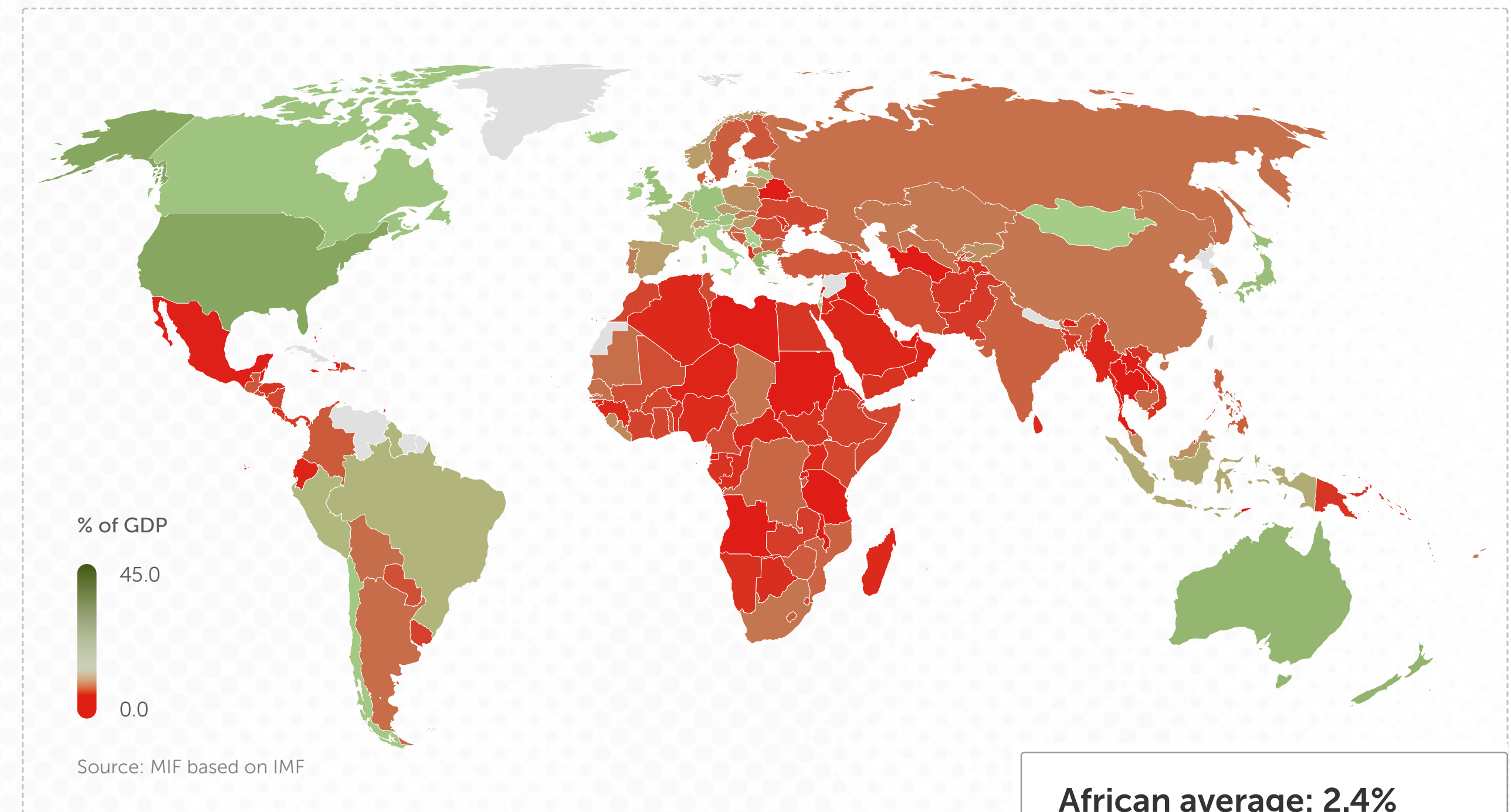
# Challenge 7: No social recovery without wider social safety nets

- Africa's weak social mitigation policies further marginalised the most vulnerable.
- Fiscal constraints, data gaps, and informality prevented the expansion of social safety nets seen in other parts of the world.

The African average spend on COVID-19 response measures as a share of GDP, excluding healthcare, was less than half the global average.

- Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  (74.7%) of respondents in MIF's 2021 NGN Survey believe that the lack of social safety nets exacerbates the impact of COVID-19 to a large extent.

World countries: COVID-19 fiscal response measures (2020)



**African average: 2.4%**  
**Global average: 4.8%**



# Social Safety Nets in the 2020 IIAG: Stagnation since 2010

- *Social Safety Nets* has not improved since 2010 at the African average level.
- Concerningly for social safety net provision, *Tax & Revenue Mobilisation* has got worse since 2015.

## African average

2019 score/100.0	33.9
10-year trend (2010-2019)	No Change (0.0)
Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend	Bouncing Back 

## African countries

10-year trend (2010-2019) by number of countries



Highest scoring country (2019)	Seychelles
Lowest scoring country (2019)	Somalia
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)	Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, São Tomé and Príncipe
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)*	Libya, Niger, Mali, Mauritius, Gabon

\* 1 more country has deteriorated at the same rate as Gabon, namely Gambia

Only 8 countries scored over 50.0 (out of 100.0) in 2019: Algeria, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tunisia.



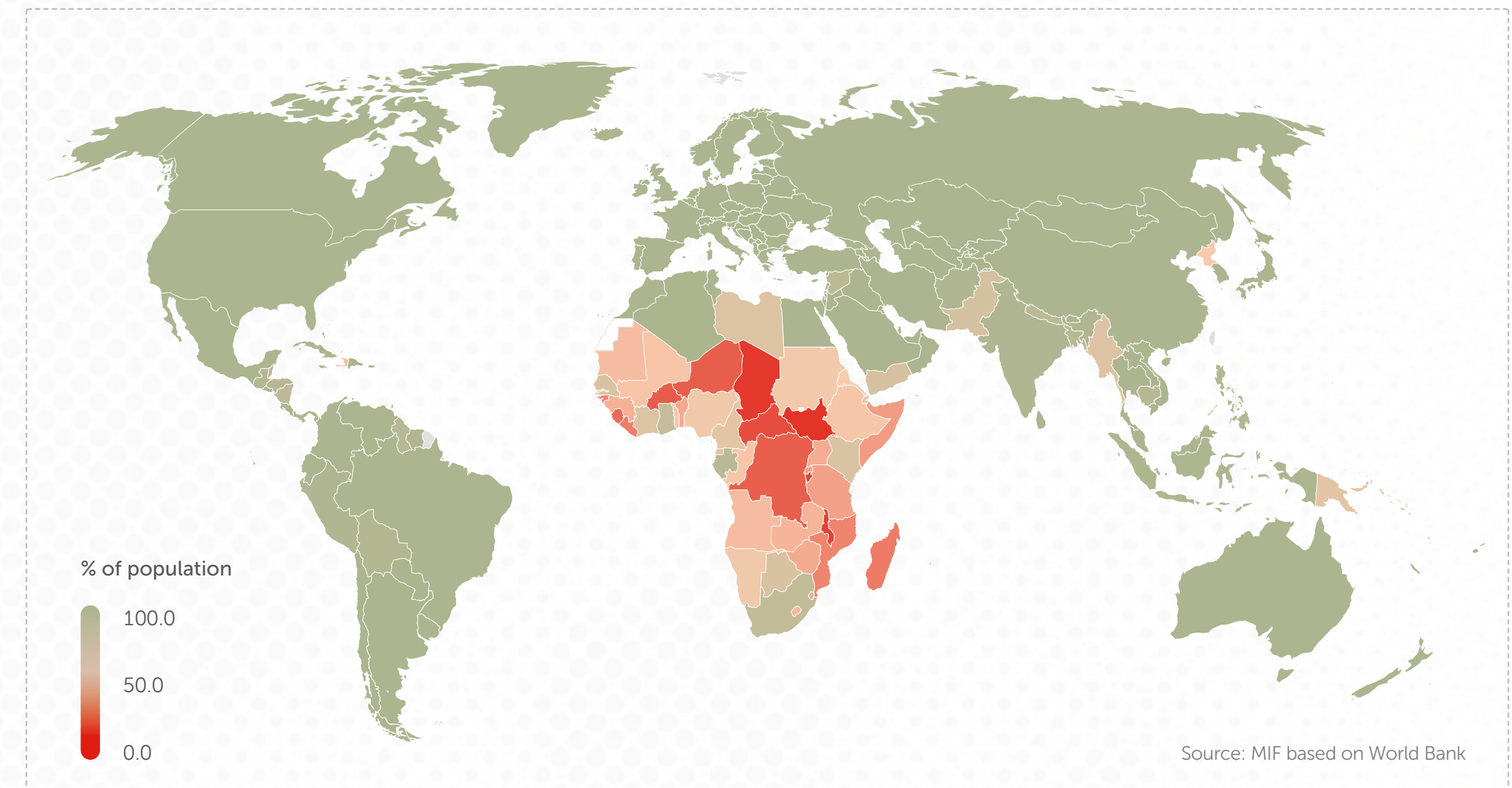
# Challenge 8: No economic transformation without energy access

- Africa has the lowest electricity access of any region globally.
- African countries now face the challenge of electrifying using minimal fossil fuels, due to a climate crisis they did little to cause.

There are over 600 million Africans still off-grid, equivalent to almost twice the total population of the US

Access to reliable energy is a key building block for a transformative recovery and for achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

World countries: access to electricity (2019)






# Access to Energy in the 2020 IIAG: Progress made but too many still off grid

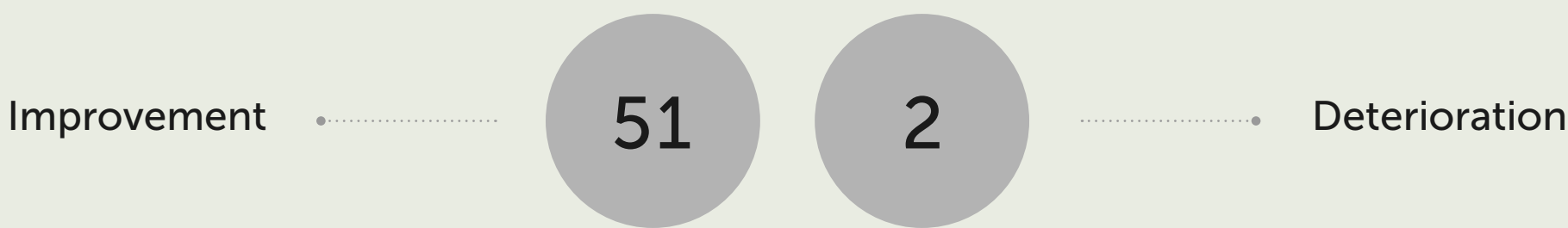
- Almost all (51) African countries have managed to increase energy access since 2010, with only Mauritius and Libya declining.
- Gas and nuclear will be needed to complement renewables in Africa to realise the critical need for both energy justice and climate justice.

### African average

2019 score/100.0	52.7
10-year trend (2010-2019)	Improvement (+12.3)
Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend	Increasing Improvement 

### African countries

10-year trend (2010-2019) by number of countries



Highest scoring country (2019)	Algeria/ Egypt/ Morocco/ Seychelles
Lowest scoring country (2019)	Burundi
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)	Kenya, Eswatini, Uganda, Lesotho, Congo Republic
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)*	Libya, Mauritius

\* Only 2 countries experienced a decline over the decade

Only 4 African countries, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Seychelles had universal electricity access in 2019.



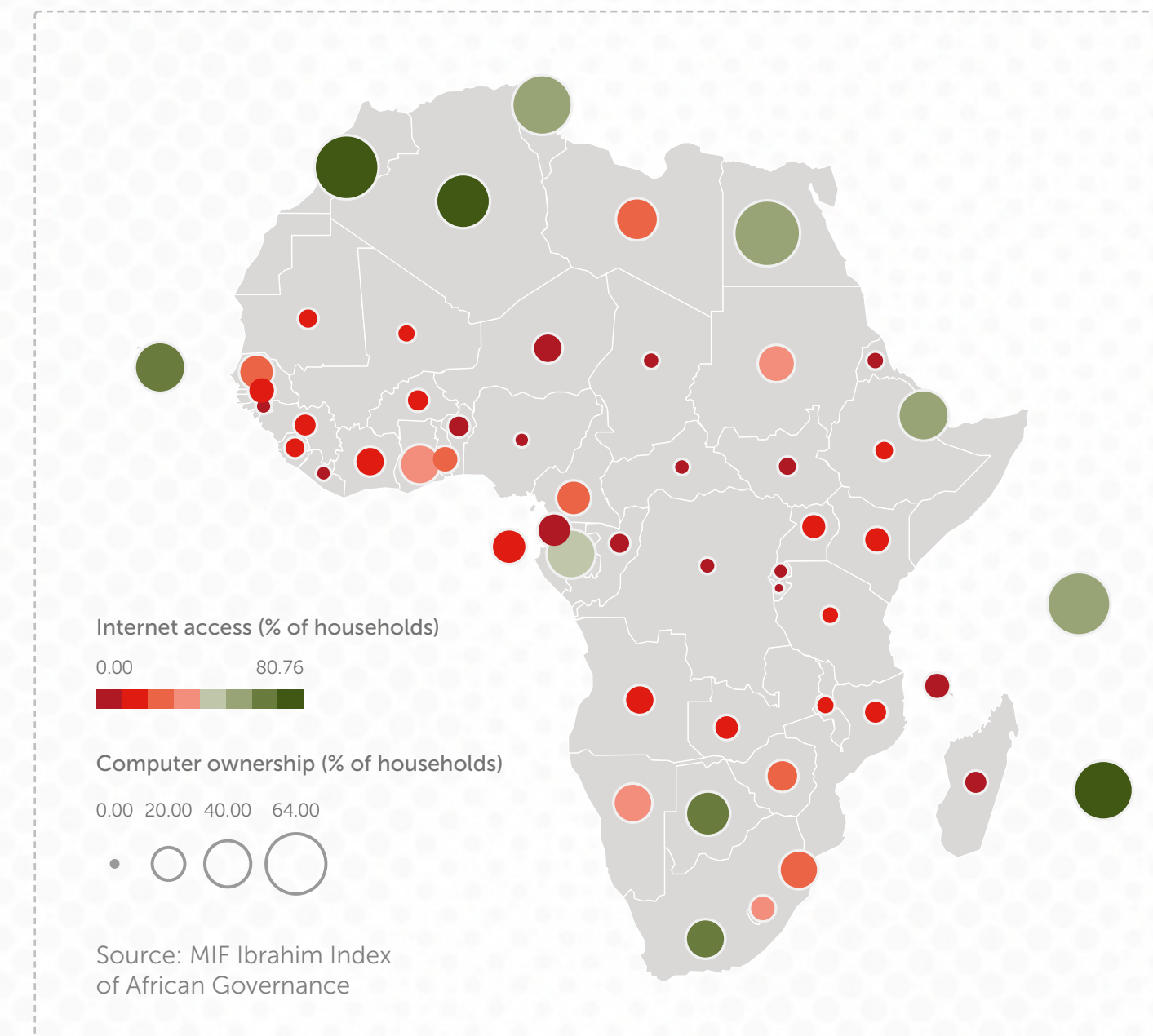
# Challenge 9: No digital economy without fixing the digital divide

For their recovery, African countries can draw on a young generation of digital entrepreneurs adapting to the new global conditions.

Africa has the world's highest number of mobile money accounts

However, in 2019, in only 10 African countries over 50% of households had internet access

African countries: households with internet access and computer ownership (2019)



Widespread access to internet and computer access still missing in many African countries.


The digital divide remains a major obstacle to realising Africa's digital potential.



# Digital Access in the 2020 IIAG: Access is still too low

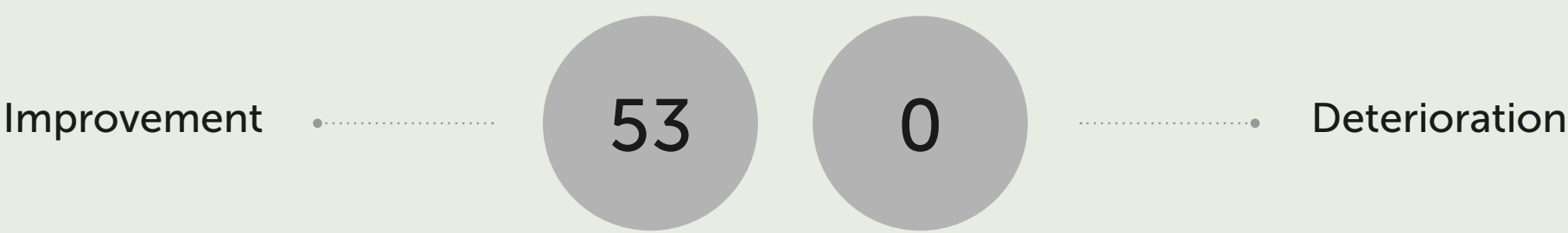
- Every country on the continent has improved in *Digital Access* since 2010.
- However, in 2019, *Digital Access* is still the second lowest scoring IIAG indicator (out of 79) at the African average level.

## African average

2019 score/100.0	24.6
10-year trend (2010-2019)	Improvement (+18.4)
Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend	Increasing Improvement 

## African countries

10-year trend (2010-2019) by number of countries



Highest scoring country (2019)	Morocco
Lowest scoring country (2019)	Burundi
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)	Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Kenya, Cabo Verde
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)	–

20 countries, hosting 31.2% of Africa’s population, score less than 10.0 (out of 100.0).

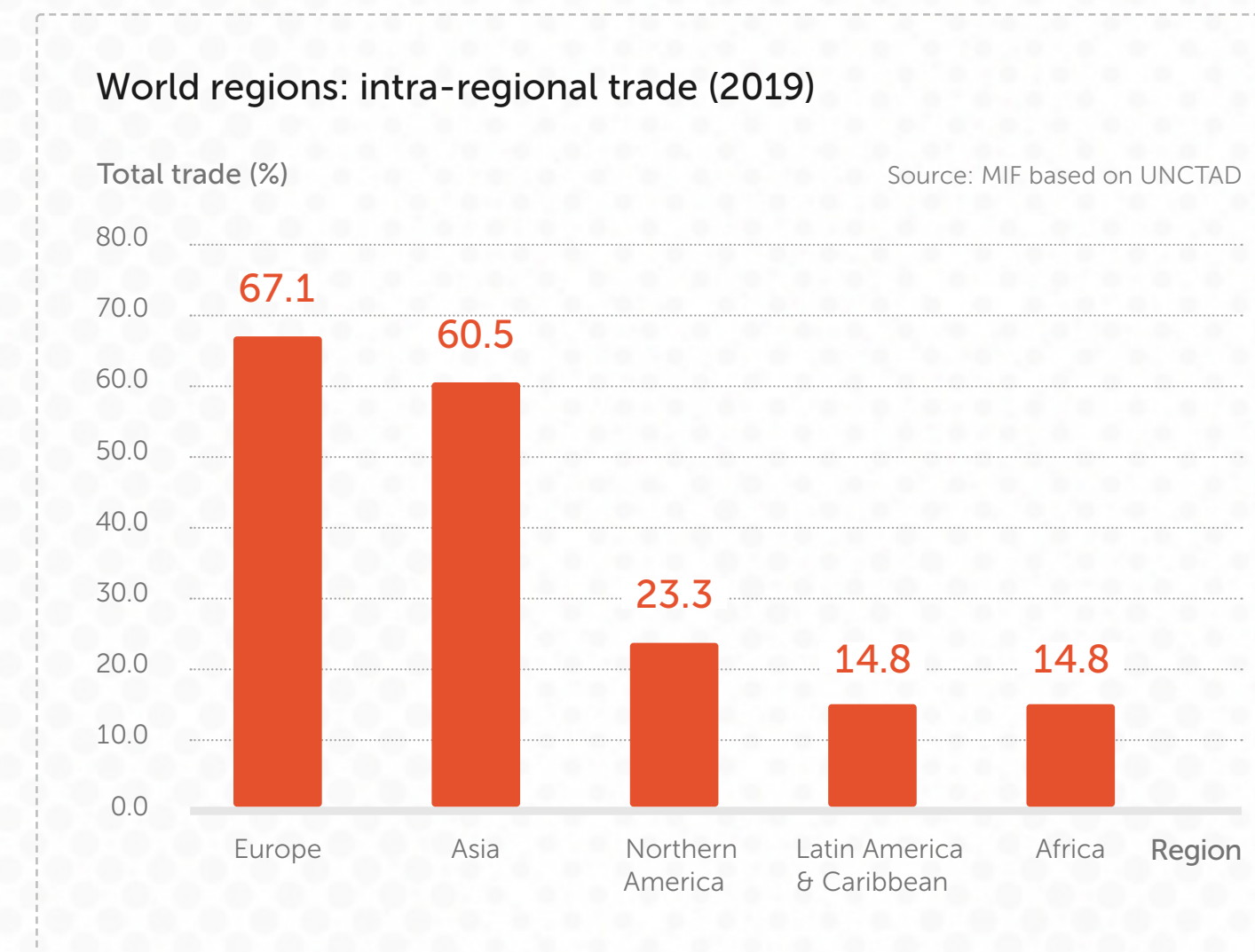


# Challenge 10: No integrated economy without adequate intercontinental transport networks

- The pandemic laid bare the vulnerabilities of Africa's trade structures, still overdependent on external supply.
- The AfCFTA, creating the world's largest free trade area, can transform the continent's place in the world economy.

Without significant improvements to transports, intra-regional trade will continue to prove costly and inaccessible.

The overarching majority of African countries' pharmaceutical imports (94.8%) come from outside the continent.



Intra-regional trade in Africa is lower than in any other world region bar Latin America & the Caribbean


In 2019, over 90% of African countries' primary export destinations were outside the continent



# Transport Network in the 2020 IIAG: Concerning performance worsened since 2010

- *Transport Network* has deteriorated on average since 2010, driven by air and postal networks.
- Small improvements have been seen in road and rail, but the pace must pick up to fully realise the AfCFTA’s potential.

### African average

2019 score/100.0	39.9
10-year trend (2010-2019)	Deterioration (-2.9)
Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend	Slowing Deterioration 

### African countries

10-year trend (2010-2019) by number of countries



Highest scoring country (2019)	Mauritius
Lowest scoring country (2019)	São Tomé and Príncipe
5 most improved countries (2010-2019)	Guinea, Tanzania, Burundi, Egypt, Senegal
5 most declined countries (2010-2019)	Togo, Liberia, Congo Republic, Libya, Tunisia

Mauritius registers the highest score in the *Transport Network* indicator in 2019, but performance has been declining since 2010 and at an accelerated pace since 2015.



# IIAG scorecard for each of the 10 challenges: example



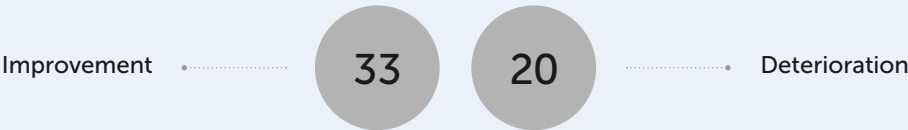
## Access to Healthcare

### African average

2019 score/100.0	45.5
10-year trend (2010-2019)	Improvement (+0.4)
Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend	Warning Signs ●

### African countries

10-year trend (2010-2019) by number of countries



Trend classification: 5-year trend (2015-2019) compared to 10-year trend by number of countries



Largest Improvement	Mali
Change 2010-2019	+21.6
Score/Rank (2019)	58.6/18 <sup>th</sup>
Largest Deterioration	Guinea-Bissau
Change 2010-2019	-22.6
Score/Rank (2019)	8.5/53 <sup>rd</sup>

Underlying measures	Largest Improvement 2010-2019	Largest Deterioration 2010-2019
Healthcare Affordability	Mali	Guinea-Bissau
Healthcare Equality	Ethiopia	Central African Republic

\*South Sudan does not have a ten-year trend or trend classification because the IIAG does not include data for the country prior to secession in 2011.

Access to Healthcare: 2019 rank, 10-year trend & trend classification (2010-2019)

