



SUPPORTING AFRICA'S TRANSFORMATION

World Bank Africa Strategy for 2019-2023



WORLD BANK GROUP



BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS

for a Resilient
and Sustainable Africa

Africa is a diverse continent brimming with opportunities. From clean energy and climate-smart agriculture to home grown digital innovations, African countries are accelerating their efforts to develop sustainably. Home to a 1.2-billion-person market and the world's largest free trade zone, Africa offers human and natural resources that have the potential to yield inclusive growth and wipe out poverty in the region, enabling Africans across the continent to live healthier and more prosperous lives.

Yet these vast opportunities are tempered by persistent gaps in education, health, and skills, which have Africa only reaching forty percent of its estimated potential. Moreover, conflict, food insecurity, population growth, and the disruptive forces of climate change threaten to curtail or even reverse the progress that has been made over the past decades. In the face of these growing and complicated challenges, the World Bank is working even more urgently in support of African countries as they become more competitive in the global economy, harness the power of the digital revolution, and improve the quality of life of their people.



The World Bank's Priorities for **SUPPORTING AFRICA**



Africa needs 1 million new jobs a month to keep up with youth entering the labor market.

Creating Jobs and Transforming Economies

Jobs are the main vehicle to help people move out of poverty and create better lives for themselves and their families. The World Bank is working with countries across Africa to stimulate job creation and economic transformation by leveraging all sources of finance, expertise, and solutions to promote investment. This approach will unlock opportunities for governments and private firms to work together to scale up critical infrastructure, expand access to services, and create employment prospects in places that need it the most. **The Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend project has offered vocational training to 100,000 women and girls to help them earn a living and increase their household incomes.**



Africa is the only region in the world where the share of adults with a mobile money account now exceeds 10 percent.

Building Up the Digital Economy

From mobile money to drones, the digital economy in Africa is driving growth and innovation, bringing more people into the formal economy and connecting people to each other and to markets. Together, investments in digital infrastructure, skills, and platforms could help Africa accelerate growth while tapping in to the US\$11.5 trillion global digital economy. The World Bank is supporting Africa's vision to connect every African individual, business, and government by 2030 – a vision that, if realized, can boost growth by up to 2 percentage points per year and reduce poverty by 1 percentage point per year in Sub-Saharan Africa. **In Benin, the World Bank is expanding digital connectivity to around 1.9 million smallholder farmers and increasing use of digital financial services in rural communities.**



Gross government debt in Africa has increased from 25% of GDP in 2008 to 48.5% in 2018.

Making Institutions More Efficient and Accountable

The world is rapidly changing, with increasing pressures on resources and more complex service delivery needs – all amplified by an evolving civic space and media landscape. The World Bank's support is helping governments strengthen public policy processes, manage resources effectively, and reinforce fair and reliable delivery of public services. This includes encouraging responsible fiscal policy for governments to build human and physical capital, enhancing debt management capacity, strengthening regional financial institutions and monetary unions, and supporting structural reforms to enhance productivity. **In line with its support for Africa's digital transformation, the World Bank is working with clients to harness GovTech to reduce fraud in public contracts, deliver resources to the frontlines, and reduce tax evasion.**



Africa has the largest return on education of any continent; each additional year of schooling raises earnings by 11 percent for males and 14 percent for females.

Investing in People

A population that is healthy, educated, and well-equipped for the future can capitalize on new technologies, compete for jobs, and nurture thriving communities. The World Bank is at the forefront of helping African countries accelerate human capital gains through its Africa Human Capital Plan (AHCP)—with a strong focus on improving women’s access to education and skills acquisition, sexual and reproductive health services, and employment opportunities. **Through the Great Lakes Emergency Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Women’s Health Project, the Bank provided holistic support to mitigate the short and medium term impact of sexual and gender-based violence to over 600 thousand people across DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda.**



43 million additional people in Africa will be pushed below the poverty line by 2030 due to climate change.

Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption

In the face of increasing climate-related risks, the World Bank is working with African countries to advance efforts to adopt renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and green infrastructure. The Africa Climate Business Plan, launched in 2016, has delivered significant results in the areas of climate-smart agriculture, integrated watershed management, climate-smart ocean economies, climate resilience in coastal zones, social development, and renewable energy. **The World Bank Group will provide \$22.5 billion for climate adaptation and mitigation in Africa over five years from 2021–2025. This more than doubles the commitment to climate-related projects over the last five years.**



Fragility in a few countries is costing Sub-Saharan Africa a half a percentage point of growth per year. That is 2.6 percentage points over five years.

Addressing the Drivers of Fragility, Conflict, and Violence

Given the cross-border nature of conflicts in Africa, the World Bank is employing an approach that simultaneously focuses on the drivers of fragility while also supporting well-targeted regional initiatives to create opportunities for peace and shared prosperity. In conflict hotspots such as the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the Lake Chad region, the World Bank is rehabilitating key infrastructure, developing economic opportunities, and building capacity of regional and local authorities as well as civil society. **The World Bank is providing \$2 billion to help low-income countries that are hosting large numbers of refugees—such as Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Niger, Republic of Congo, and Uganda—through programs that create jobs and opportunities, build the resilience of local institutions, promote pro-refugee policies, and foster social cohesion.**



Africa Centers of Excellence: Closing the Science and Technology Gap

45 UNIVERSITIES IN **19** COUNTRIES ARE IMPLEMENTING
58 CENTERS, WITH **24,000** STUDENTS ENROLLED
IN MASTER'S AND PHD PROGRAMS.



Digital Transformation

CONNECTING **10** MILLION PEOPLE IN WEST
AFRICA TO FIBER OPTIC NETWORKS.



Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls

210,000 YOUNG WOMEN IN
BENIN, BURKINA FASO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE,
CHAD, MALI, MAURITANIA, AND NIGER
ARE PARTICIPATING IN LIFE-SKILLS
AND LIVELIHOODS INTERVENTIONS.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND WORKING ACROSS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT:

The World Bank is scaling up its work on regional integration, taking a holistic view of the continent that covers both North and Sub-Saharan Africa. The Bank's program of regional integration projects in Africa spans energy and natural resources, business, finance, trade, skills development, health, and beyond—issues that transcend national boundaries. To address these continental priorities, the Bank works with partners such as the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities, the European Union, and the United Nations. By strengthening existing partnerships and developing new ones, the World Bank hopes to drive stronger development outcomes at a much more ambitious scale.



Lighting up Africa

3 SUB-REGIONAL POWER
POOLS IN WEST, EAST,
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
ARE ENABLING COUNTRIES
TO BUY AND SELL POWER
LESS EXPENSIVELY,
ENSURING A MORE
RELIABLE POWER SUPPLY.



A PARTNERSHIP FOR RESULTS

The World Bank is a dedicated partner for African countries, helping them deliver strong development outcomes for their people. A brighter future for Africa is a better future for the world.



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