

## REGIONAL FACT SHEET FROM THE WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS 2009

# Sub-Saharan Africa

## Sub-Saharan Africa: regional data from the WDI database

	Population	GNI per capita		Life expectancy at birth	Primary completion rate	Access to improved water source	Carbon dioxide emissions	Total debt service	Internet users
	millions	Atlas <sup>a</sup>	PPP <sup>b</sup>	years	% of relevant age	%	per capita metric tons 2005	% of exports	per 100 people
		2007	2007						
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>
East Asia & Pacific	1,912	2,182	4,969	72	98	87	3.6	4.0	14.6
Europe & Central Asia	446	6,052	11,262	70	98	95	7.0	18.7	21.4
Latin America & Caribbean	561	5,801	9,678	73	100	91	2.5	16.0	26.9
Middle East & North Africa	313	2,820	7,402	70	90	89	3.7	5.8	17.1
South Asia	1,522	880	2,532	64	80	87	1.1	12.9	6.6
<b>Selected economies:</b>									
Angola	17	2,540	4,270	43	..	51	0.6	10.2	2.9
Benin	9	570	1,310	57	64	65	0.3	7.0	1.7
Botswana	2	6,120	12,880	51	95	96	2.5	0.9	5.3
Burkina Faso	15	430	1,120	52	33	72	0.1	..	0.6
Burundi	8	110	330	49	39	71	0.0	42.6	0.7
Cameroon	19	1,050	2,120	50	55	70	0.2	9.9	2.0
Cape Verde	1	2,430	2,940	71	86	..	0.6	3.8	7.0
Chad	11	540	1,280	51	31	48	0.0	..	0.6
Congo, Dem. Rep.	62	140	290	46	51	46	0.0	..	0.4
Congo, Rep.	4	1,540	2,750	55	72	71	0.6	1.2	1.9
Cote d'Ivoire	19	920	1,620	48	45	81	0.5	4.5	1.6
Ethiopia	79	220	780	53	46	42	0.1	4.1	0.4
Ghana	23	590	1,320	60	71	80	0.3	3.1	3.8
Kenya	38	640	1,550	54	93	57	0.3	6.0	8.0
Madagascar	20	320	930	59	62	47	0.2	5.7	0.6
Malawi	14	250	760	48	55	76	0.1	..	1.0
Mali	12	500	1,040	54	49	60	0.0	4.4	0.8
Mauritania	3	840	2,000	64	59	60	0.6	..	1.0
Mauritius	1	5,580	11,410	72	94	100	2.7	4.9	27.0
Mozambique	21	330	730	42	46	42	0.1	1.3	0.9
Niger	14	280	630	57	40	42	0.1	26.6	0.3
Nigeria	148	920	1,760	47	..	47	0.8	1.4	6.8
Rwanda	10	320	860	46	..	65	0.1	3.2	1.1
Senegal	12	830	1,650	63	49	77	0.4	5.8	6.6
Sierra Leone	6	260	660	43	81	53	0.2	2.5	0.2
South Africa	48	5,720	9,450	50	92	93	8.7	5.9	8.3
Sudan	39	950	1,880	59	50	70	0.3	3.2	9.1
Tanzania	40	410	1,200	52	112	55	0.1	2.5	1.0
Uganda	31	370	1,040	51	54	64	0.1	2.1	2.5
Zambia	12	770	1,190	42	88	58	0.2	2.5	4.2
Zimbabwe	13	340	..	43	..	81	0.9	..	10.1

**Note:** Figures in italics are for years or periods other than those specified.

a. Atlas method; see WDI Statistical methods. b. Data are for the most recent year available. c. Provisional data.

Source: 2009 World Development Indicators database, World Bank. April 20, 2009.

## **People**

**Poverty and human development**—Extreme poverty declined in **Sub-Saharan Africa** from 58 percent in 1990 to 50 percent in 2005. Nevertheless, poverty remains the highest among all regions, and the region experienced the largest increase in the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day, from nearly 300 million in 1990 to 388 million in 2005.

Primary completion rates for **Sub-Saharan Africa** lagged largely behind other regions. Only 60 percent of children completed primary education in 2006, at least 20 percentage points lower than other regions.

In **Sub-Saharan Africa**, only 23 percent of married women used contraception. This is reflected in the high total fertility rate (5.1 in 2007) and high maternal mortality ratio (900 per 100,000 live births in 2005).

5 percent of the adult population is infected with HIV in 2007. In contrast with other regions, more young girls ages 15-24 were infected with HIV (3.3 percent) than boys (1.1 percent). The incidence of tuberculosis more than doubled between 1990 (176 per 100,000 people) and 2007 (369 per 100,000 people), largely a consequence of the HIV epidemic.

## **Environment**

**A rapidly urbanizing region**—**Sub-Saharan Africa's** population growth in both rural (1.9 percent annual increase) and urban (4 percent annual increase) areas is the highest in the world. Since 1990 its urban population has doubled to 290 million people in 2007. Although **Sub-Saharan Africa** remains predominantly rural, rapid urbanization—from 28 of the population in 1990 to 36 percent in 2007—has put significant pressure on urban services. Still cities offer more than rural areas. In 2006 57 percent of the urban population had access to improved sanitation facilities, compared to 23 percent of the rural population.

## **States and markets**

**Three of the top ten reformers in business in 2007-2008 are Sub-Saharan countries**—Business reforms in many countries reflect a sustained commitment to improving competitiveness, and three of the top ten business reformers in 2007-2008 are in **Sub-Saharan Africa**—Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Botswana. And Mauritius, the **Sub-Saharan African** country with the most favorable business regulations, is among the top 25 countries as measured by the Doing Business “ease of doing business” measure. Twenty-eight Sub-Saharan countries implemented 58 reforms in 2007-2008, continuing an upward trend. But there is room for improvement—entrepreneurs in **Sub-Saharan Africa** face greater regulatory and administrative burdens than in any other region.

**Mobile cellular subscriptions are growing rapidly, but remains behind most other regions**—Mobile cellular service can be deployed more quickly than fixed-line service, and it requires less up-front investment. At the end of 2007 there were about 1.1 billion fixed telephone lines and 3.3 billion mobile phone subscriptions worldwide—with about 70 percent of them in developing economies. Mobile cellular subscriptions in **Sub-Saharan Africa** have increased at a fast pace, from 8 per 100 people in 2005 to 23 in 2007, or about a 70 per cent annual increase.

## **Global links**

**Burden of external debt declined**—Sub Saharan Africa's total external debt in 2007 increased to \$195 billion—an amount equivalent to 25 percent of the regions' GNI—from \$172 billion in 2006. The external debt-to-GNI ratio is 41 percentage points lower than the level in 2000. The debt service to exports ratio declined from 12 percent in 2000 to 5 percent in 2007. Improved debt service ratios are partly due to increases in GNI and exports revenues, and partly due to debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). Twenty nine heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) in Sub-Saharan Africa received debt relief of \$45.5 billion in end-2007 net present value (NPV) terms under the HIPC Initiative. Twenty HIPCs received additional debt relief of \$18.3 billion in end-2007 NPV terms under the MDRI. Reduced debt service ratios create environment for investment and recovery without heavy debt burdens.