AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

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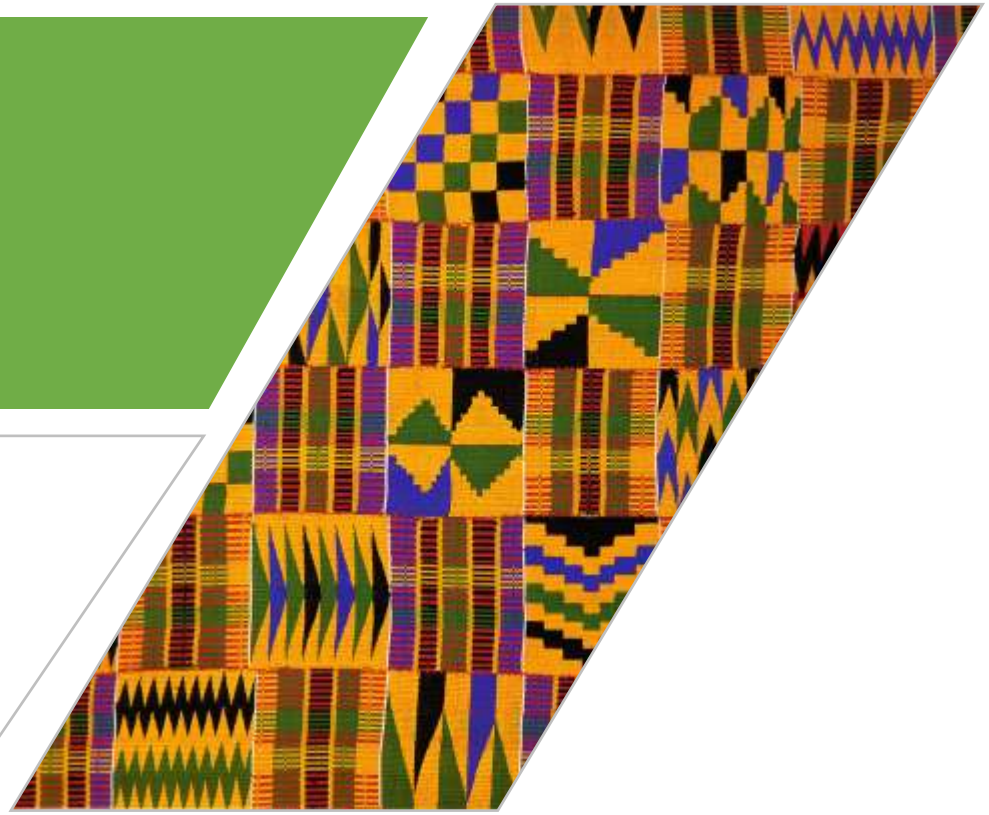
Economic Commission for Africa

Africa Gender Index 2023 (AGI 2023)



July 2024

Africa Gender Statistics Forum 2024
Pooling Together for Gender Statistics

OUTLINE

01 The Africa Gender Index (AGI): purpose, scope and ambition

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Africa Gender Index (AGI) purpose, scope and ambition

1.1. Why a gender index in Africa?

Responding to gaps in gender-sensitive data and/or gender statistics

Advocacy tool to support policy actions towards greater positive change in the lives of women and girls

Tool for planning, formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating evidence-based policies and programmes

Support the achievement of an equitable transformation of African economies

1.2. AGI as a measure of gender inequality

AGI and SIGI measure two sides of the same problem

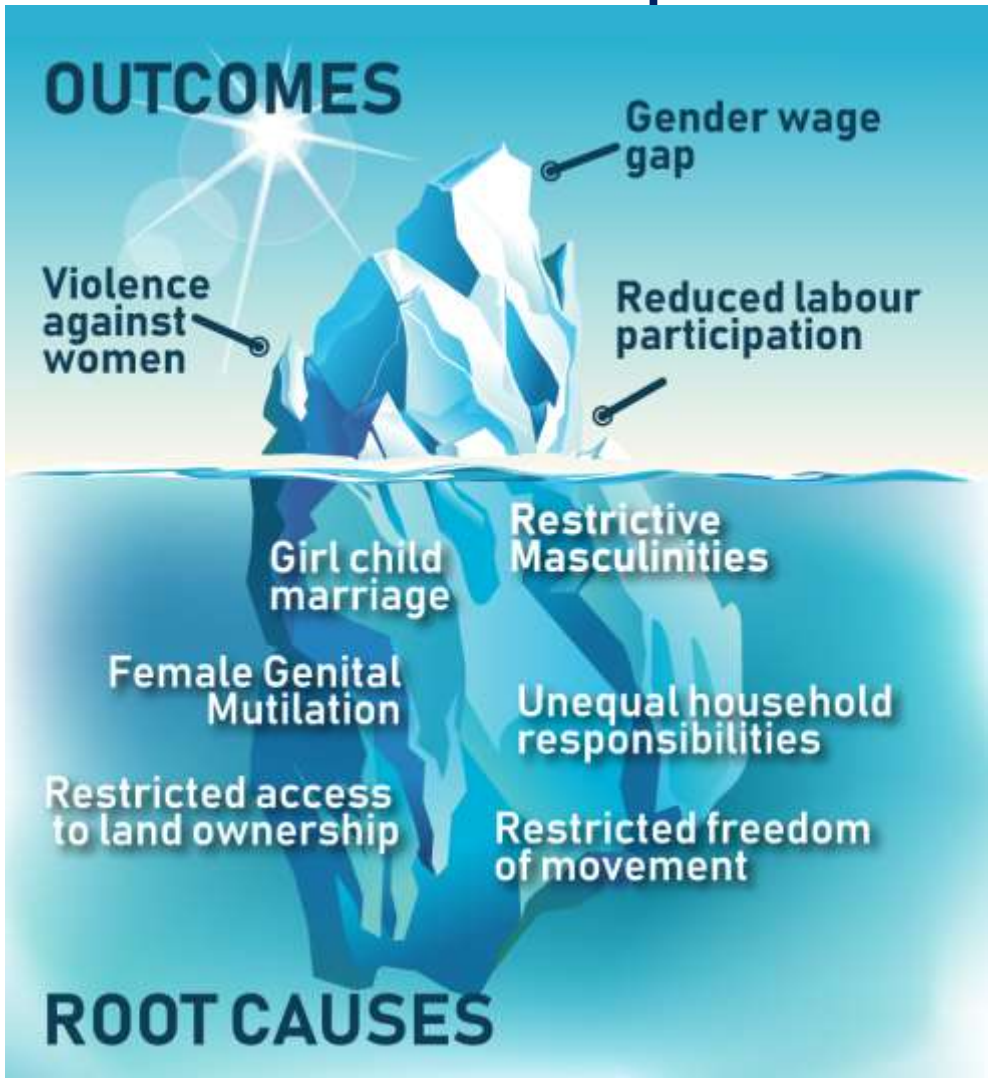
AGI → Results

SIGI (Social Institutions & Gender Index)

→ Laws

→ Social norms

→ Practices



1.3. Structure and composition

Africa Gender Index

SOCIAL
"Equality in social development"

Education
- Primary completion rate
- Lower secondary completion rate
- Upper secondary completion rate
- Tertiary graduation rate
- Tertiary graduation in STEM
- Youth literacy rate

Health
- Youth HIV prevalence
- Under-5 stunting
- Life expectancy at birth

ECONOMIC
"Equality in economic opportunities"

- Labour force participation rate
- Employees
- Vulnerable employment
- Youth unemployment rate
- Wages
- Access to credit
- Participation in business

EMPOWERMENT AND REPRESENTATION
"Equality in empowerment and representation"

- Cabinet of ministers
- Members of Parliament
- Managers, professionals & technicians
- Asset ownership
- Top managers of firms

ICT Indicators

Individuals using the Internet	Individuals with a mobile phone	Digital payments made or received in the last year	ICT skills
Percentage of graduates from ICT programs in higher education	Number of ICT professionals	Number of Telecom professionals	Proportion of researchers in engineering and technology compared to total researchers
	Average income in the ICT sector	Gender-based cyberviolence	

Environment and Climate Indicators

Access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking, male/female-headed households (%)

Access to electricity, male/female-headed households (%)

Access to agricultural land

Droughts, floods, extreme temperatures, male/female-headed households (%)

Electricity generation from coal sources, male/female-headed households (%)

Use of safely managed drinking water services, male/female-headed households (%)

Use of safely managed sanitation services, male/female-headed households (%)

Women-specific indicators

Percentage of women aged 15-19 who have had a live birth or who are pregnant with their first child (teenage pregnancies)

Births (per 1,000 women aged 20-24)

Births attended by a skilled health professional (% of births to women aged 15-24)

Contraceptive prevalence rate (% of married women aged 15-24 currently using a modern contraceptive method)

Child marriage (% of women aged 20-24 who were married or in union before age 15)

Child marriage (% of women aged 20-24 who were married or in union before age 18)

Maternal mortality rate (MMR) per 100,000 live births)

Prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting (15-24yrs)

Percentage of currently married women aged 15-24 with unmet need for family planning

Percentage of women (15-34) who have experienced physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months from any husband/partner

The Africa Gender Index Process

#	Activities	Timeline	Responsibility
0	Project set up, including liaison with the Statistical Departments of ECA , the Bank and NSOs	January – July 2022	Technical Team
1	Regional workshops on the AGI 2023 data collection and pilot data collection	July - September 2022	Technical Team + NSOs
2	Official launch of AGI 2023 Data collection (Nairobi Meeting)	November 2022	Technical Team + NSOs
3	Fourth regional workshop on AGI 2023 data inter country validation (Johannesburg Meeting)	August 2023	Technical Team + NSOs
4	AGI 2023 data collection and validation update, and the index calculation	February – September 2023	Technical Team + NSOs
5	The index calculation and Panel discussion on emerging patterns and policy recommendations (Casablanca Meeting)	October – November 2023	Technical Team + NSOs + Gender Ministries

AGI data validation process

1. Completing the Survey Questionnaire
2. Intra country data validation
3. Submission of the Meta data file in the following format
   - Data collection methodology (Data sources and data collection tools)
   - Data collection Results (Proportion of AGI indicators covered during data collection by dimension)
   - Challenges and Recommendations
4. Inter country data validation
5. Addressing missing data

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Lessons Learned from the Data Collection Process

Availability of gender equality statistics across Africa

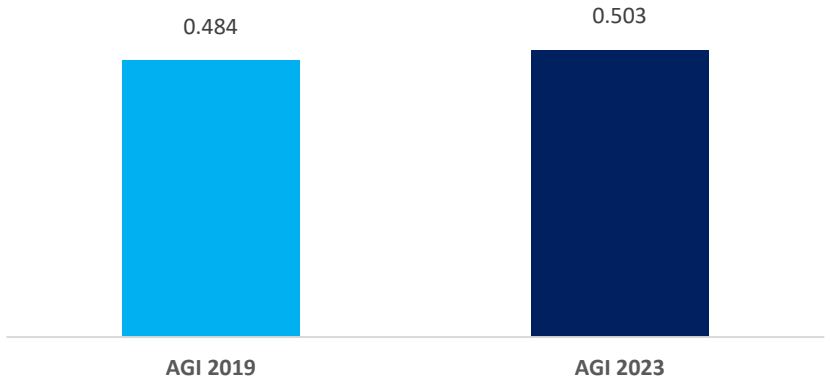
- Despite improvements, there are still huge gaps in sex disaggregated data across sectors, in terms of coverage, accessibility, frequency and timeliness
- Data harmonisation and standardization needs to be improved
- There is a need to promote new and innovative data sources, and work with NSOs to fill data gaps

Availability of gender equality statistics across Africa

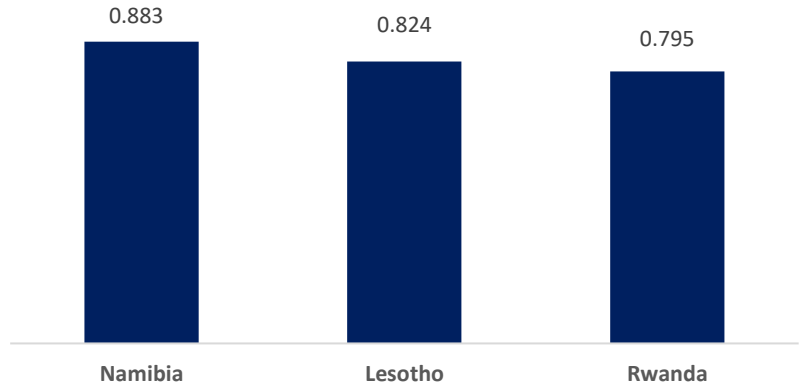
- We need to modernize the process for collecting and updating AGI data
- We need to engage more national institutions in the data collection, under the leadership and coordination of NSOs
- Data validation workshops and engagement with NSO focal points has helped improve data coverage

Key findings

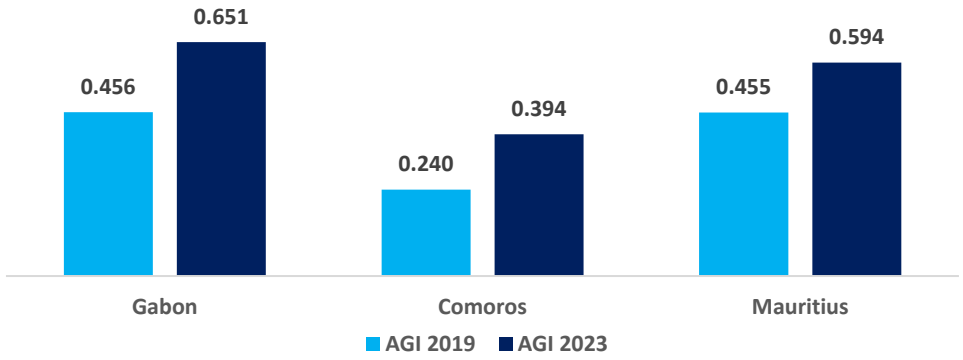
AGI performance across the African region



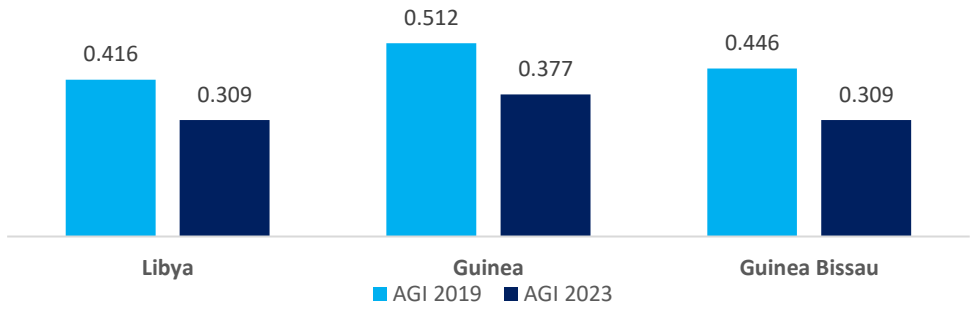
The aggregate AGI score across Africa went from 0.484 in 2019 to 0.503 in 2023, a 0.019 increase.



The highest AGI scoring countries in 2023 are Namibia, Lesotho and Rwanda.



33 countries improved their overall AGI score over the period 2019 to 2023. The largest improvements were made by Gabon (+0.195), Comoros (+0.154) and Mauritius (+0.139).



Overall AGI scores decreased for 18 countries over the period 2019 to 2023. The largest regressions were seen in Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Libya.

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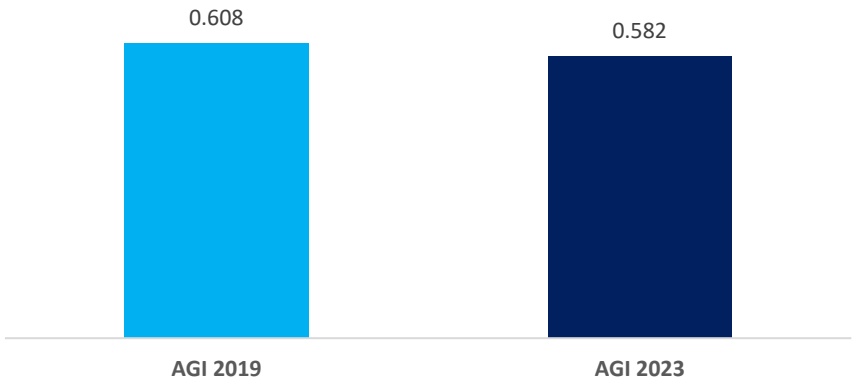
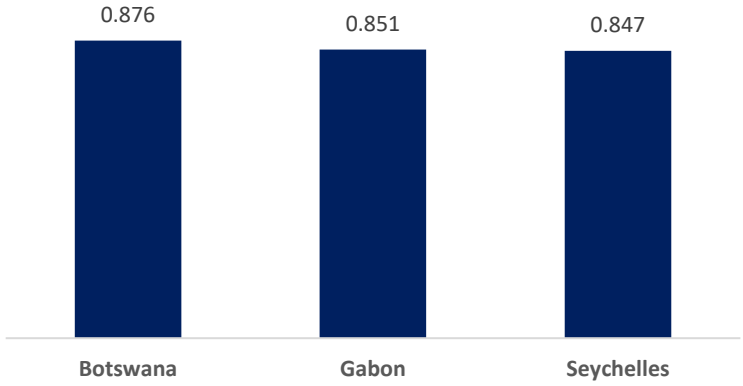
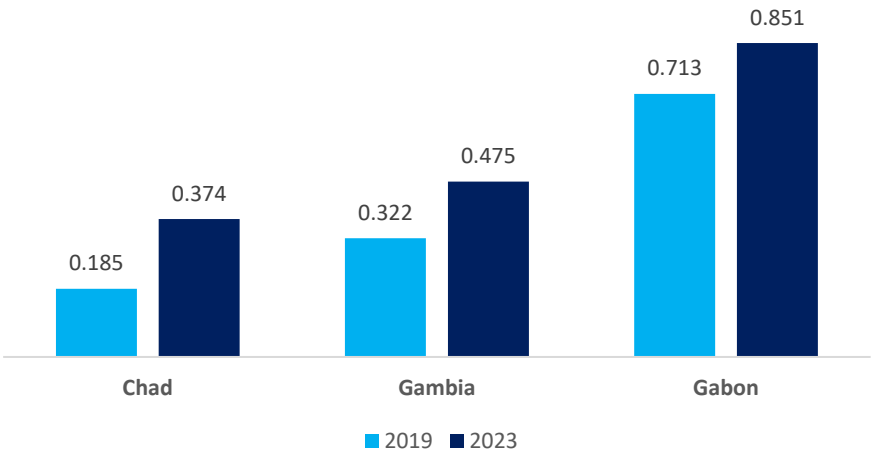
Economic and Business Dimension



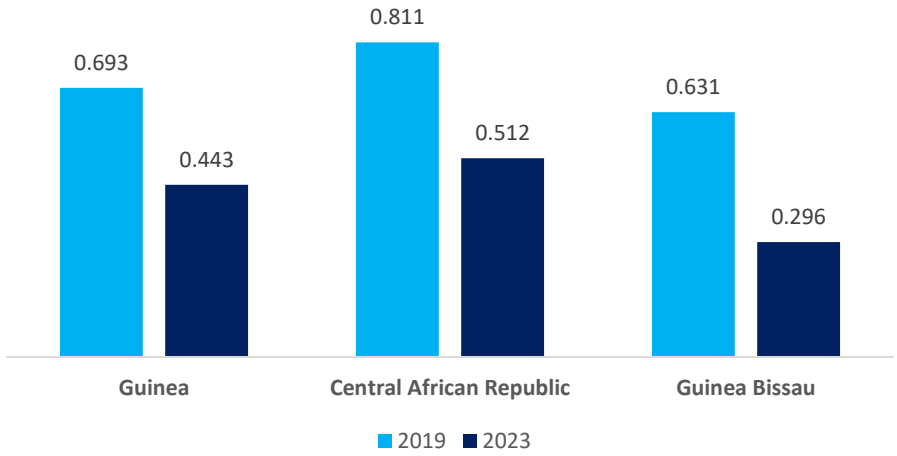
The aggregate score across Africa went from 0.610 in 2019 to 0.595 in 2023, a 0.015 decrease.



The highest scoring countries in 2023 are Botswana, Gabon and Seychelles.



21 countries improved their Economic and Business score between 2019 and 2023. The largest improvements were made by Chad (+0.189), Gambia (+0.153) and Gabon (+0.138).



30 countries saw declining scores over the period 2019 to 2023. The largest regressions were seen in Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic and Guinea.

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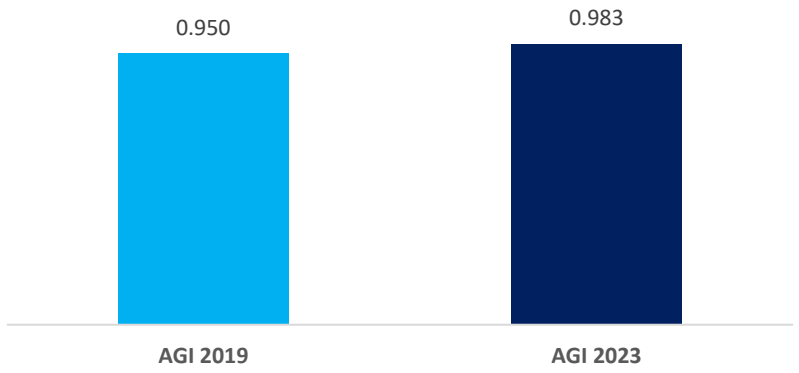
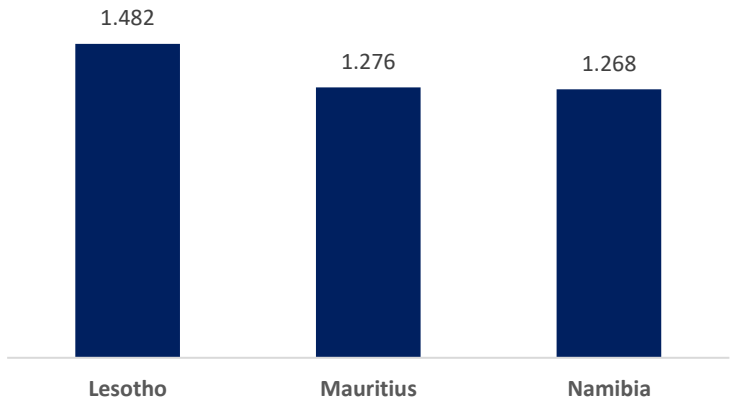
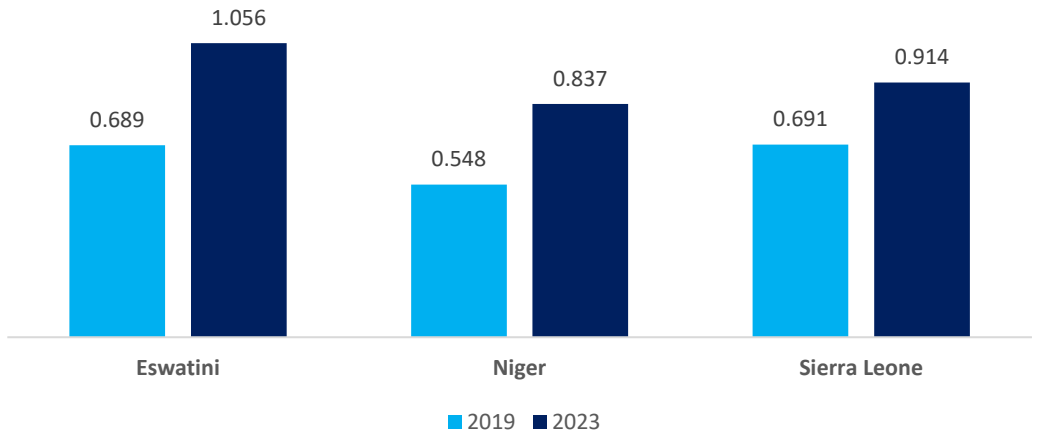
Social Dimension



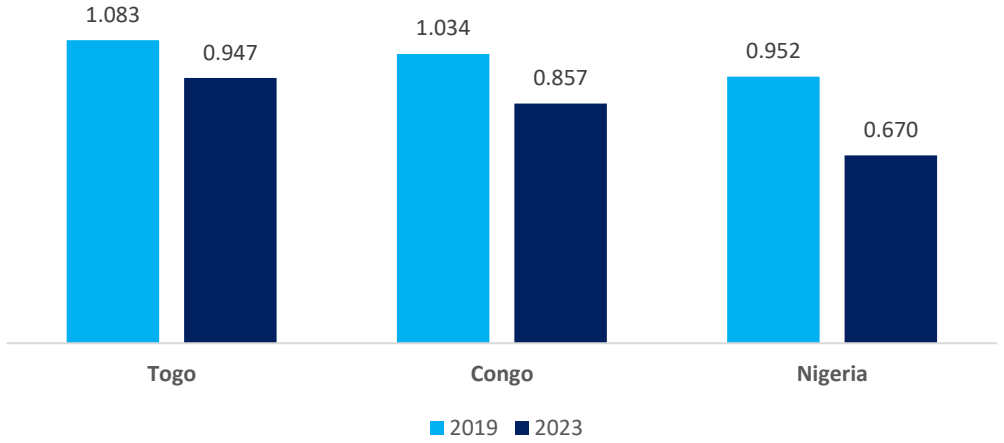
The aggregate score across Africa went from 0.950 in 2019 to 0.983 in 2023, a 0.033 increase.



The highest scoring countries in 2023 are Lesotho, Mauritius and Namibia.



30 countries improved their score between 2019 and 2023. The largest improvements were made by Eswatini (+0.367), Niger (+0.289) and Sierra Leone (+0.223).



21 countries saw declining scores over the period 2019 to 2023. The largest regressions were seen in the Nigeria, Congo and Togo.

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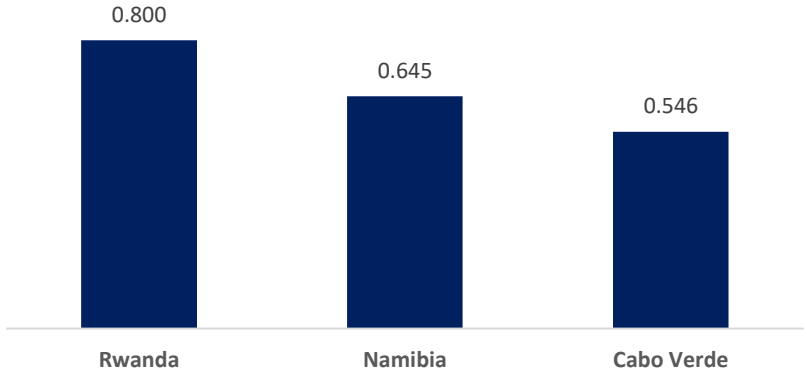
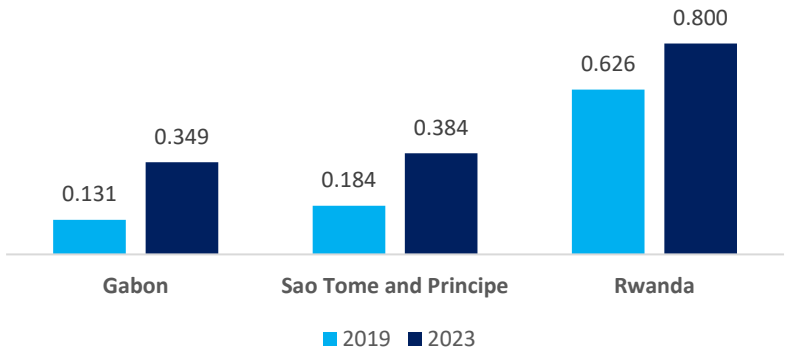
Empowerment and Representation Dimension

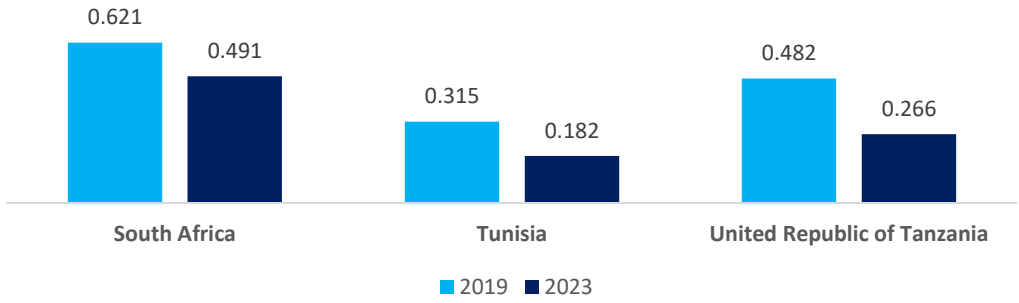
The aggregate score across Africa went from 0.224 in 2019 to 0.244 in 2023, a 0.02 increase.



The highest scoring countries in 2023 are Rwanda, Namibia and Cabo Verde.



36 countries improved their score between 2019 and 2023. The largest improvements were made by Gabon (+0.218), Sao Tome and Principe (+0.200) and Rwanda (+0.174).



15 countries saw declining scores over the period 2019 to 2023. The largest regressions were seen in the United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia and South Africa.

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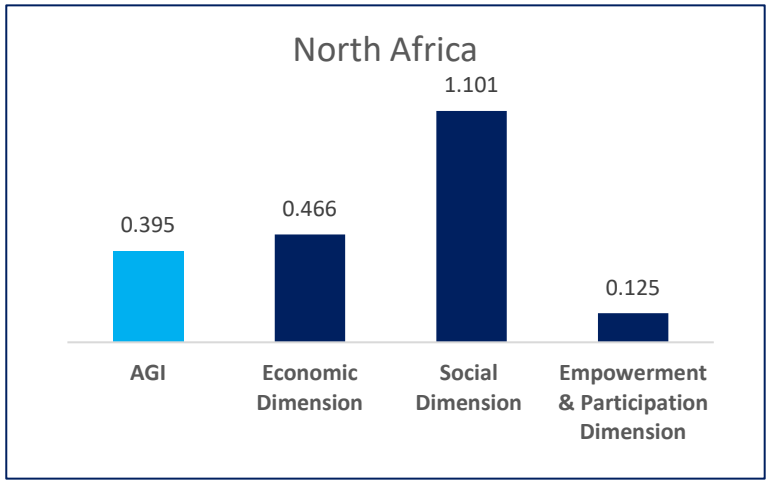
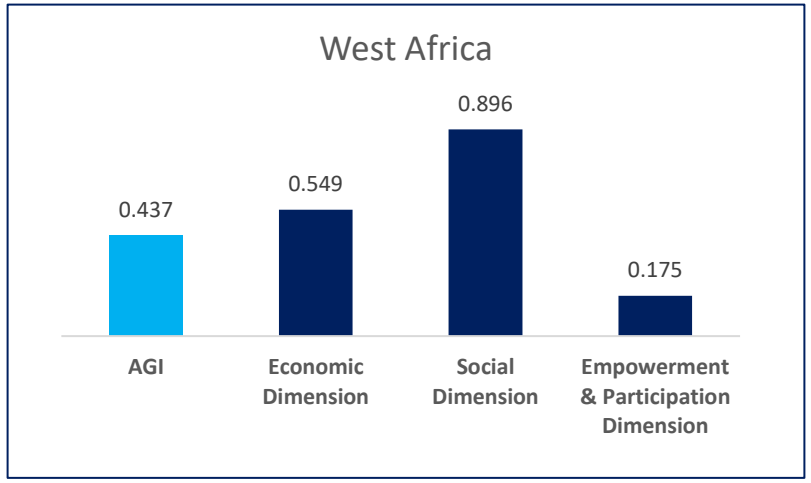
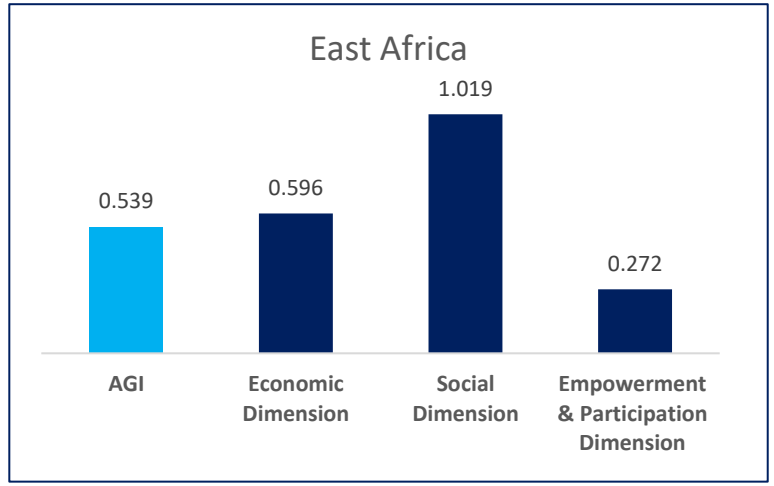
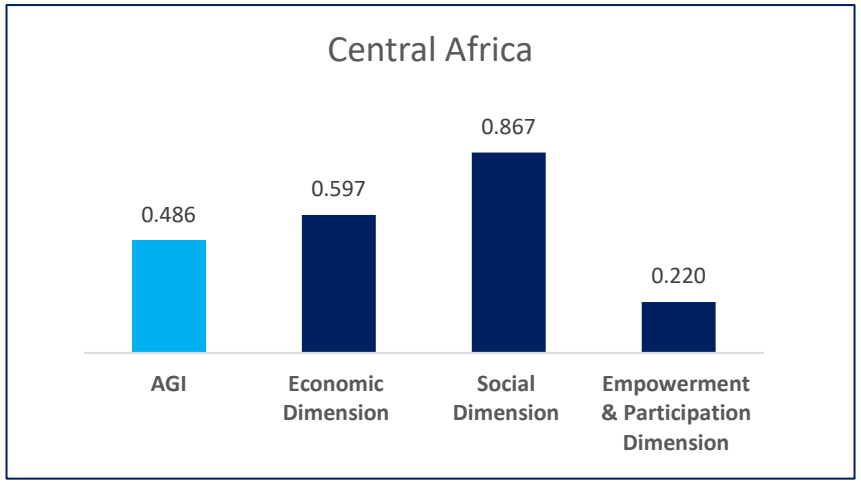
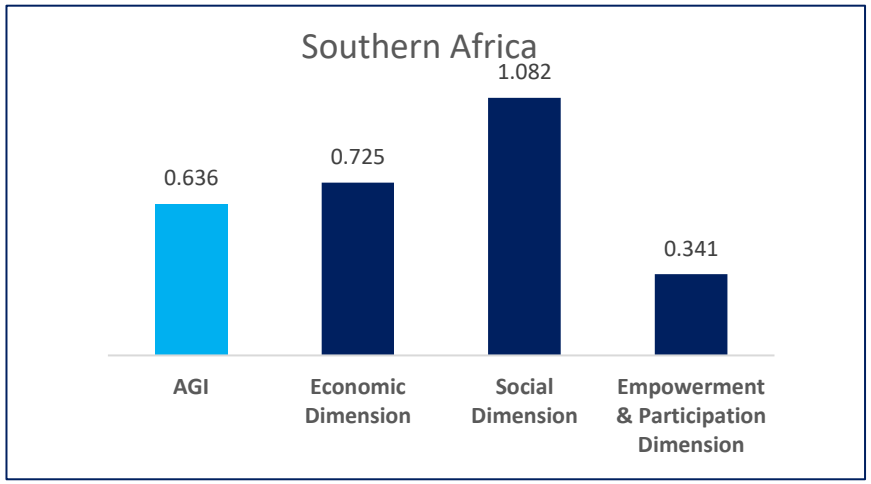
Regional AGI performance, 2023











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African women in a time of shocks and crisis

African women in a time of poly-crisis

- Africa emerged from COVID-19 pandemic to face a global food crisis, rising indebtedness, increasing rates of conflict and accelerating climate impacts
- The impact of these crises reflects underlying vulnerability and inequality, with areas where women are affected more than men, or in distinctive ways
- African women face lasting impacts from the pandemic
  - They faced higher rates of job losses, and took longer to return to pre-pandemic levels of economic security
  - Pandemic-induced increases in gender-based violence (GBV), early marriage, unwanted pregnancies and school dropouts are having long-term impacts on women's health, employment prospects and income
  - Disruption to sexual and reproductive health services and maternal health services have resulted in some alarming increasing in maternal deaths

Global economic turbulence and rising food insecurity

Indebtedness

- 22 African countries are in debt distress
- Many of these are spending more on debt service than on education, health and social protection combined
- Austerity measures adopted as part of debt relief packages are designed without a gender lens, and impact heavily on services for women (such as sexual and reproductive health, and GBV prevention)

Food insecurity

- In parts of Africa, food prices doubled from 2021 to 2022
- Negative coping strategies impact disproportionately on women and girls, who often eat last, and less than men and boys. Girls' education is de-prioritised in times of stresses
- GBV increases in times of food stress
- Women in sub-Saharan Africa produce 60-70% of food. Women farmer's unequal access to inputs contributes to food insecurity

Rising conflict and accelerating climate disruption

Conflict

- Africa has experienced sharp rises in conflict and violent extremism over the past two decades
- Women are direct targets of violence, with long-term consequences for their physical and mental health. Victims often face the added burden of social stigma
- Services for women in fragile contexts are often limited
- In displacement situations, female-headed households experience higher rates of food insecurity

Climate change

- Women are in many ways on the front line of accelerating climate impacts
- As food systems come under climate stress, women face increased time and labour burdens for food production, water and fuel provision and family care
- The sectors most vulnerable to climate change are those that women particularly depend on for their livelihoods (agriculture; fishing; forestry)
- There is a common pattern of men being displaced into urban areas, leaving women in charge of land and households
- Women are often affected more by extreme weather, during to limitations on their mobility, decision-making power and access to resources
- Positively, where women have an active voice in decision-making, it helps build resilience

Report recommendations

Recommendations

The debt crisis

- The terms of debt relief packages should exempt women-focused services from spending reductions, and encourage gender-responsive approaches to reducing debt pressures.

Food insecurity

- Accelerate the development of gender-sensitive, shock-responsive social protection systems, with a focus on inclusion of female- and child-headed households and displaced populations.
- Increase the focus on gender in national agricultural and food strategies, to better mitigate the impacts of food insecurity in women.
- Ensure that food-security data is disaggregated by sex, age and disability status, to build a deeper understanding of the different impacts of crises.

Education

- Undertake data collection research and analysis into the causes of boys' underperformance in higher levels of education, and introduce policy measure to ensure that they are not left behind.

Climate stress

- Recognise the important role of women in community-level adaptation, and strengthen their voice in decision-making, for increased resilience.

Conflict and humanitarian crises

- Increase the focus on identifying and responding to the needs of women and girls in humanitarian emergencies and mass displacement

Way Forward

Way Forward

- Presentation of AGI Website
- AGI Panel Discussion to review and validate the draft report
- Global launch of the AGI 2023 Report

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Merci

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