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ADF-16 Delivery and Results Report

Driving inclusive growth: Strategic investments for impactful results

ADF-16 Delivery and Results Report 2025 | 2025

Note: In this report, "$" refers to US dollars. Conversion rate as of 31 December 2024: 1 Unit of Account (UA) = 1.30413 US dollars (African Development Bank, 2024 Annual Report).

Cover photo: Youth rising: The ADF supports youth in Senegal gain tools to build resilient businesses. © AfDB

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Harnessing shared potential

Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania join forces for clean energy through the Rusumo Falls Hydropower.

Foreword

Africa continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience

In the face of immense global economic pressures, mounting debt challenges, and security constraints, the continent continues to sustain progress.

Despite global headwinds ranging from climate shocks to tightening financial conditions, African countries have responded by advancing reforms, strengthening integration, and tapping into the ingenuity of its people.

This resolve to turn challenges into opportunity remains Africa's greatest strength. With the right investments at scale in infrastructure, youth and women empowerment, and a focus on innovation, the continent is poised not just to withstand global disruptions, but to emerge stronger, more self-reliant, and better positioned to harness its immense demographic potential

As a strategic partner for sustainable development, the African Development Fund has consistently demonstrated its vital role of supporting Africa's low-income countries, by channelling resources where they are most needed, without generating unsustainable debt burdens.

By financing critical infrastructure, strengthening food security, and supporting climate resilience, the Fund has enabled millions to access electricity, clean water, education, and healthcare, while fostering inclusive economic growth and spurring regional integration. In 2024, ADF investments helped 2.9 million people gain access to clean water services, connected half a million people to electricity, improved health services to 1.2 million people, and supported over 520 000 farmers with improved and climate-resilient technologies and inputs.

Anchored on 50 years of robust achievements, the 17th replenishment of the African Development Fund comes at a pivotal moment and must rise to the occasion. There is unprecedented momentum to accelerate energy access, harness digital innovation, and build climate-resilient infrastructure that can unlock opportunities for the youth and drive inclusive prosperity for communities across the continent.

I am deeply moved by the legitimate aspirations of our young people, for a brighter future. As the fastest-growing population in the world, Africa's youth are seeking for quality education, decent jobs, reliable infrastructure and platforms to shape decisions that affect their lives. This is a generation that refuses to be defined by a narrative of struggle alone. Their ambitions extend to innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership—driving Africa's transformation in technology, industrialization, and food security. Meeting these aspirations is a moral and strategic imperative: unlocking the potential of Africa's youth can fuel sustainable growth, stability, and prosperity for generations to come.

We will be guided by their urgent call for opportunity, dignity, and inclusion, and we will build that future together.

This is a defining moment. The African Development Fund stands ready to meet Africa's aspirations, leveraging strategic partnerships and innovation for speed, synergy, scale and impact. Together, with ambition and solidarity, let us engage with Africa's youth to forge a new chapter of growth, resilience, and shared prosperity.

Dr. Sidi Ould Tah
President of the African Development Bank Group

Regional power trade

Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania grid connections unlock clean energy trade and market integration.

Executive Summary

The African Development Fund (ADF), now in its 16th replenishment cycle (2023-2025), continued to deliver strong results in 2024 despite a complex operating environment. This report highlights progress under its two strategic pillars—sustainable, climate-resilient and quality infrastructure and governance, capacity building and sustainable development—along with the cross-cutting priorities of climate action, resilience, women's and youth empowerment, and support for private sector development. The report also includes updates on approved projects and anticipated results.

Africa's resilience amid global challenges

In 2024, Africa faced heightened macroeconomic and geopolitical volatility, conflict escalation, and climate-induced shocks. Despite these challenges, ADF countries achieved 4.7% growth, up from 3.3% in 2023, with projections of 5.5% in 2025 and 2026. As such, low-income ADF countries are expected to remain resilient. However rapid population growth continues to outpace the rate of electrification. Access to safe water and health services, as well as the population living below the poverty line, showed modest improvements, while the percentage of the population using the internet is rising, but still remains below 25%.

Agricultural productivity is lagging, with yields below global averages and vulnerable to climate-related shocks. At the same time, food insecurity is worsening. Manufacturing, on the other hand, has shown remarkable resilience with value-added increasing. Progress on regional integration remains limited and uneven due to non-tariff barriers and slow implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Fragility and conflict have intensified, with displaced populations increasing by over 50% from 27.3 million to 41.4 million in 2024, while climate change continues to disproportionately impact Africa, despite its minimal emissions contribution. Gains in women's health and education contrast with declining formal labour participation and limited financial access. Meanwhile, Africa's rapidly growing youth population outpaces job creation.

ADF operations are delivering steady and robust results

Despite slow progress on several continental development indicators, ADF-supported operations completed in 2024 continue to deliver strong results.

Energy access: In 2024, the ADF enabled access to reliable electricity for 500 761 people—half of which were women—exceeding its target. The Fund helped deliver 2 012 km of cross-border transmission lines and the installation of 30 megawatts of renewable energy capacity. Energy projects in Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia vastly exceeded targets, delivering double and triple the results respectively. In 2024, the Mission 300 initiative was launched in partnership with the World Bank, providing a blueprint for accelerating energy access to 300 million Africans by 2030 and renewables expansion.

Agriculture and food security: In 2024, ADF operations supported 24 403 agribusinesses, as well as helping 524 780 farmers (over 50% of which were women) use improved and climate-resilient technologies and inputs, over double the target. In Ghana, ADF-supported operations helped farmers double their maize yields and improve market access, including through building feeder roads, as well as promoting environmental initiatives such as tree planting.

Regional integration and connectivity: ADF-financed projects improved mobility and regional connectivity by constructing or rehabilitating 614 km of cross-border and national roads in 2024, improving transport access for 3.5 million people. Along with partners, the Fund supported a project which led to significant improvements in regional connectivity along the Libreville–Brazzaville corridor by rehabilitating 130 km of roads, building 103 km of new corridors, and eliminating key bottlenecks, cutting travel time from three days to 4.5 hours. The project also boosted incomes, created 700 jobs, empowered women and youth, and introduced climate resilience measures. The ADF also played a pivotal role in reshaping regional power trade in East Africa through strategic investments in transformative, cross-border projects. These investments have generated substantial export revenues for Ethiopia, positioned Kenya as a key energy transit hub, and laid the foundation for a competitive regional electricity market across the region.

Water, sanitation and health: In 2024, ADF-supported operations improved access to better water, sanitation and healthcare services, surpassing targets on water (2.9 million people) and sanitation (over 306 thousand people). A project in Mauritania provided 110 000 people with drinking water, 50% of whom were women, and ended open-air defecation in 140 villages, as well as providing latrine and wells and expanding irrigated land.

Governance and institutional reform: Through ADF contributions, six countries have improved their governance, four countries have improved their macroeconomic policy management, and five countries have improved their competitive business environment.

Climate resilience: Climate finance was scaled up, with commitments reaching 56% — well above the planned target of 40%. By the end of 2024, 87.3% of resources under the Climate Action Window had been allocated, following the prioritisation of financing proposals. Projects under the mitigation window leveraged co-financing at a ratio exceeding 1.3, enabling the continued scale-up of climate action across the continent.

Building resilience: In transition states experiencing situations of fragility, the ADF has surpassed its planned contributions in all measured areas: 500 761 received electricity, 180 221 farmers adopted improved and climate-resilient technologies and inputs, and 825 enterprises accessed finance.

Gender and youth empowerment: ADF operations supported direct jobs for 29 575 women and indirect jobs for 217 767 women, along with access to finance for 557 women-led businesses. ADF operations have helped address youth unemployment through job creation, supporting 56 519 young people with access to direct jobs and 234 437 with access to indirect jobs. In Mozambique, an ADF-financed project targeting vulnerable groups — including women, youth and ex-combatants — contributed to improvements in food security for 136 680 people, introducing climate-smart agricultural practices to nearly 20 000 farmers and creating 19 660 direct jobs.

Private sector and enterprise development: The ADF has contributed to the creation of 115 564 direct jobs and 449 224 indirect jobs and supported over one thousand businesses with access to finance. For instance, along with the EU, the Fund has supported agro-industrial parks in Ethiopia, creating 13 917 jobs, connecting 3 892 farmers to value chains, and increasing food production by 22%.

Operations, institutional performance and policy commitments

In 2024, 67% of ADF-supported sovereign operations fully achieved their planned development results at completion. Output performance was strong with 86% of completed ADF-supported operations rated satisfactory or above, compared to 65% for outcomes. Weak evidence of achievement of broader development outcomes at completion often contributed to these lower outcome ratings. These challenges faced by legacy projects approved during previous replenishment cycles underscore the importance of strong project results planning and measurement tools, an area where significant investments have been made since 2021 under the Integrated Quality Assurance Plan. They also highlight the critical need for proactive implementation support and mid-course project reviews to enable timely restructuring or adjustment of intended results in response to evolving project contexts.

Gender equality was integrated into 96% of projects, exceeding targets. Larger, multi-year investment programs expanded, and regional integration projects increased to 41% in 2024. Although 28% of projects faced delays, this marked progress from 2023.

By June 2025, all ADF-16 policy commitments have been delivered or are on track to be achieved by the end of 2025. ADF-16 policy commitments have been met or surpassed in key sectors, including energy access, agricultural productivity and food security, water and sanitation, health infrastructure, regional integration, and economic governance. Progress has also been achieved in cross-cutting areas through the application of a fragility lens to Bank operations, advancing climate action, and empowering women and youth.

The way forward

ADF countries have demonstrated resilience and achieved notable progress in an increasingly challenging environment. Global instability, conflict, climate shocks, and shrinking development finance constrain further progress. The Bank's new Ten-Year Strategy offers a blueprint for accelerated transformation, setting out a bold agenda for progress. An ambitious ADF-17 replenishment is imperative to sustain momentum, crowd in private capital for scale and impact, in support of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2063 for Africa. The Bank is committed to improving its operational performance, leveraging innovative finance, and delivering catalytic, high-impact investments with a strong focus on resilient infrastructure, gender empowerment and youth employment, in partnership with other development partners.

Growing prosperity

In Eswatini, irrigation transforms subsistence farming into commercial agriculture.

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Introduction

This report provides an update on development results reported through the African Development Fund (ADF)[1] in its 16th replenishment cycle, which covers the period 2023–2025. The report highlights development results delivered by completed ADF-supported projects in 2024, along with updates on projects approved during the ADF-16 period and their anticipated outcomes. It assesses results under the two strategic pillars of the ADF-16 cycle (sustainable, climate-resilient and quality infrastructure, and governance, capacity building and sustainable development), as well as its cross-cutting themes (climate action, resilience, women and youth empowerment, and support to private sector development). It draws on results data generated against the ADF Results Tracking System (RTS), which is aligned to the Bank's Results Management Framework (RMF). Level 1 of the RTS assesses progress on key development indicators in ADF countries, while Level 2 covers the Bank's contribution to development results through ADF-supported operations. The results are presented within the wider development context of the 37 ADF countries and the continent more broadly. The report also summarises the Bank's progress on implementing institutional commitments and discusses progress towards enhancing operational and institutional performance.

This report was prepared at a time of significant change and progress within the Bank, as it marks the completion of the first year of the Ten-Year Strategy 2024–2033 and its RMF 2024–2033, and amid consultations on the 17th replenishment of the ADF. The strategic direction of the ADF-17 remains aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2063 for Africa, and will be guided by the new Ten-Year Strategy, along with key operational and institutional priorities set out by the newly elected President of the African Development Bank Group.

Although growing, economic growth and development across the continent remain fragile in the face of multiple shocks. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in ADF countries grew on average by 4.7% in 2024, compared to 3.3% in 2023, and growth is projected to increase to 5.5% in both 2025 and 2026[2]. Despite global uncertainties – including intensifying geopolitical fragmentation, ongoing regional conflicts, slowing global trade, and rising trade protectionism – low-income ADF countries are expected to demonstrate continued resilience.

ADF-supported operations completed in 2024 delivered strong development results, despite the complex operating environment. The Bank played a key role in advancing development across ADF countries, including providing over 500 000 people with access to electricity; supporting 24 403 agribusinesses; constructing or rehabilitating 614 km of roads; providing over 1.2 million people with access to better health services; and improving access to basic ICT services for over 1.3 million people. Additionally, ADF operations contributed to improved revenue collection across multiple countries, strengthened debt management capacity, and enhanced transparency in debt reporting. The Bank also supported improvements in cross-cutting areas, improving access to climate finance through the Climate Action Window (CAW), supporting the establishment of new infrastructure in countries facing fragility, and empowering women and young people through job creation and training.

By June 2025, 100% of ADF-16 policy commitments were delivered or are on track to be achieved by the end of 2025. ADF-16 policy commitments have been met or surpassed in key sectors: energy access, agriculture productivity and food security, water and sanitation, health infrastructure, regional integration, and economic governance. Efforts in cross-cutting areas have also advanced, notably in applying a fragility lens to Bank operations, advancing climate action, and empowering women and youth.

1 In this report, 'the Fund' refers to the African Development Fund, while 'the Bank' refers to the African Development Bank Group

2 AfDB African Economic Outlook 2025, and IMF World Economic Outlook 2025.

Pillar 1: Sustainable, climate-resilient and quality infrastructure

Energy access

> *Access to reliable energy for all is a key driver of inclusive growth, creating opportunities for economic and social development. While energy coverage in Africa is improving, rapid population growth is outpacing the rate of electrification, creating an energy access gap. The Bank is committed to closing this gap and made significant contributions to expanding energy access in 2024. In particular, the Bank partnered with other development partners to deliver electricity to over 500 000 Africans in ADF countries.*

Development context

Broadening energy access helps pave the way to inclusive development across the continent. Africa's electrification efforts continue to make progress, with the percentage of the population with access to electricity growing from 54% in 2018 to 60% in 2023. However, there is still a significant gap, with approximately 600 million Africans lacking reliable access to electricity. Increasing electricity production is essential to bridge this gap. Africa's total electricity production reached 894 000 gigawatt hours (GWh) in 2022, with renewable energy contributing 22.8% of the total output. There is massive potential to increase renewable energy production in Africa, given its geography. However, the growth of renewable energy across the continent has been slow and uneven due to low levels of investment and limited transfer of technical solutions.[3]

Africa's power utilities face deep-rooted financial, operational, and governance challenges that hinder electricity access and economic growth. To overcome these challenges and improve energy security, more work is needed to modernise grids, foster digitalisation, and promote regulatory reform.

Access to clean cooking solutions remains a major challenge across the continent. The adoption of clean cooking technologies is vital to reduce indoor air pollution, mitigate climate change, and advance gender equity through time savings and improved livelihoods.

In ADF countries, energy access has seen improvements, with access reaching 49% of the population in 2023,[4] up from 44% in 2020, and electricity production increasing to 197 thousand GWh in 2022, up from 174 thousand GWh in 2020. ADF countries continue to have a significantly larger share of renewables in their energy mix (64.3%) compared to the African average (22.8%). However, the share of renewable energy in ADF countries dropped slightly in 2022 (Table 1).

Power transmission and distribution losses have worsened in ADF countries, accounting for 28.6% of output in 2023, up significantly from 16% in 2020. Access to clean cooking solutions showed significant improvements, increasing to 15% of the population in 2023 from 12% in 2020, but it remains below the average for African countries.

Mission 300, launched in 2024 by the African Development Bank and the World Bank, aims to provide first-time electricity access to **300 million people by 2030** (Box 1). Endorsed by **48 countries** via the Dar es Salaam Energy Declaration in 2025, the initiative began with **12 nations — Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the**

3 Cai et al., Harnessing Renewables in Sub-Saharan Africa: Barriers, Reforms, and Economic Prospects (2024).

4 This is the most recent data. Level 1 tables present the latest available data with the corresponding year shown in parentheses.

Table 1: Level 1 – Energy access

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● People with access to electricity (% population)	44	49 (2023)	32	36 (2023)
● People with access to clean cooking solutions (% population)	12	15 (2023)	12	13 (2023)
● Electricity production (Thousands GWh)	174	197 (2022)	68	79 (2022)
● Share of renewable energy in the energy mix (%)	66.0	64.3 (2022)	72.7	70.5 (2022)
● Power transmission and distribution losses (% of output)	16.0	28.6 (2023)	16.0	31.2 (2023)

● Improvement compared to the baseline ● Regression compared to the baseline

Box 1: Mission 300: Powering Africa's future

Providing electricity to 300 million Africans by 2030

Driving sustainable energy solutions for Africa's growing population

Goal

Deliver electricity to 300 million people, transforming lives and communities

Focusing on electrifying households, businesses and public facilities

Approach

Using grid extensions, mini-grids, and stand-alone solar home systems to sustainably reach remote areas

Combining on-grid and decentralized energy solutions for efficient, scalable impact

Partnerships

Includes governments, the private sector, and multilateral development partners

Unified efforts across stakeholders to ensure lasting change and infrastructure improvements

Joint reporting

Tracking and reporting progress towards objectives

Ensuring stakeholders receive up-to-date information on achievements

Mission 300 impact

Empowering communities, revitalizing economies, and ensuring a sustainable, affordable energy future for Africa

Building resilience and fostering economic growth through affordable, clean energy access

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zambia—presenting National Energy Compacts focused on energy access, clean cooking, renewables, and reforms. To support this, the **World Bank Group pledged $30–40 billion**, the African Development Bank committed **$18 billion**, and further contributions are expected[5]—bringing total commitments to over $55 billion.

Supporting access to sustainable energy in ADF countries

The Bank is working to close the energy access gap. Through ADF operations, the Bank has provided 500 761 people with access to electricity, half of whom were women (Table 2). ADF contributions also helped to install power capacity equalling 30 megawatts (MW), all of which came from renewable energy. The Bank also funded the construction of 2 012 km of cross-border and national transmission lines through ADF projects, enhancing regional power connectivity and improving energy access across multiple countries.

The ADF project, Liberia Energy Efficiency and Access Project, is a prime example of how the Bank is building energy access in Africa. Through this project, 980 km of distribution networks were built, enabling 39 792 new connections for 39 384 households, 50 health facilities, 65 academic institutions, 43 public facilities, and 250 small businesses. The project delivered three times the expected results. In addition, 44.54 km of transmission lines were completed. Moreover, the project delivered substantial results while only using 90% of the budget.

Similar progress was achieved in the DRC with the Rural and Peri-Urban Electrification Project financed by the ADF. It helped build 1 471 km of distribution lines, installed or rehabilitated 420 transformers, and added 2 997 public lighting units. Over 282 000 people were connected, exceeding the original target more than twofold, and 72 utility staff members were trained to boost operational efficiency. The project significantly strengthened the national electricity network by curbing energy losses and outages, while broadening electricity access toto thousands.

The Bank also promotes electrification through the facilitation of cross-border energy exchanges. For example, the Kenya-Ethiopia Electricity Highway Project and the Kenya-Tanzania Interconnection Project improve power supply reliability, stabilise national grids, and reduce reliance on thermal power plants through electricity trade, and facilitate cross-border energy exchanges (Box 3).

Table 2: Level 2 – Energy access (ADF contribution)[6]

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● People provided with access to electricity (number)	383 190	500 761	>100%
● — *Of which women*	192 398	251 766	>100%
● Power capacity installed (MW)	30	30	100%
● — *Of which from renewable energy*	30	30	100%
● Cross-border and national transmission lines constructed (km)	2 315	2 012	87%
○ Households/people provided with clean cooking access[1]	-	-	-

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target ○ Data not available to measure progress

5 Development partners including the French Development Agency, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the OPEC Fund for International Development made commitments.

6 Level 2 data reflect aggregate annual results from ADF-supported operations completed in 2024, including those co-financed with development partners.

Progress in ADF-16 delivery and policy actions to improve energy access

Under the ADF-16 cycle, the Bank is making progress in its commitments to advance energy access. Four targets due by the end of the cycle are on track to be met by the end of 2025.

The ADF has supported the development of two Just Energy Transition Partnership investment plans: one in Senegal, which has already been finalised, and another in Uganda. In a further 11 countries, the ADF supported the development of National Energy Compacts, which were presented at the Africa Energy Summit held in Dar es Salaam in January 2025.

These compacts and investment plans serve as strategic blueprints for transforming national energy systems, setting country-specific targets and timelines to expand access to clean, reliable energy, accelerate the shift from fossil fuels, and support inclusive growth. They ensure Africa's energy transition is equitable, practical, and aligned with national development priorities while addressing climate and social objectives. Although the ADF did not meet its mid-term target to develop five Just Energy transition plans, the commitment to develop 10 plans by the end of 2025 is on track.

Through the ADF, the Bank is supporting access to sustainable on-grid and off-grid electricity. At the end of 2024, five related projects had been approved, exceeding the mid-term target, and five more are expected to be approved in 2025, on track to meet the end-of-cycle target. The projects will support energy access in The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, South Sudan, Uganda, Lesotho, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, and Sudan.

The Bank supports Africa's green growth and sustainable development. Under the ADF, the Bank has committed to supporting renewable energy generation capacity and improving energy efficiency to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. Approximately 274 MW of renewable energy capacity has been approved or enabled through ADF financing mechanisms. This includes a 50 MW solar PV plant supported under the *Desert to Power Initiative*, plus an additional 42 MW for the *Sokode Solar PV Project* in Togo. In 2024, three projects to improve energy efficiency were approved, including the *Eastern Ethiopia Electricity Grid Reinforcement Project*, aimed at strengthening grid reliability and expanding access in underserved regions.

Agriculture and food security

> *A productive agricultural sector is essential for reducing poverty, enhancing food security, and driving economic growth. In Africa, however, agriculture remains significantly underfunded and increasingly exposed to the adverse effects of climate change. Through ADF contributions, the Bank is actively working to boost agricultural productivity and strengthen food security across the continent.*

Development context

Africa's agricultural sector has the potential to be transformative in alleviating hunger, enhancing food security, and driving economic growth. However, it remains underfunded and has yet to realise its full productive capacity. Agriculture accounted for 15% of Africa's economic output in 2023, down from 16% in 2020. While cereal yields have slightly improved, from 1.69 to 1.70 tonnes per hectare between 2020 and 2023, they remain well below the global average of 4.2 tonnes. Food insecurity across the continent is worsening due to lingering pandemic effects, high global food prices, climate shocks, and conflict.[7]The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity stands at 58%, nearly double the global average. Climate change further compounds these challenges by disrupting weather patterns, reducing agricultural yields, and intensifying water scarcity.[8]

In ADF countries, the share of agriculture value-added has risen (as a percentage of GDP), and the prevalence of stunting among children under five has marginally declined (Table 3). However, indicators tracking agricultural productivity and food security have worsened compared to the baseline. Cereal yields decreased

7 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2024).

8 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Working Group II. Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC, Chapter 9: Africa (2022)

Table 3: Level 1 – Agricultural productivity, agriproduct processing and food security

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● Cereal yield (ton/hectare)	1.46	1.45 (2023)	0.98	0.94 (2023)
● Africa's share of agriculture value-added (% GDP)	22.8	23.2 (2023)	22	23 (2023)
● Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in Africa (%)	58	61 (2023)	60	63 (2023)
● Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 (%)	31.0	30.0 (2022)	32.7	31.7 (2022)

● Improvement compared to the baseline ● Regression compared to the baseline

slightly to 1.45 tons per hectare in 2023, from 1.46 in 2020. Also, the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity increased to 61% in 2023 from 58% in 2020.

Delivering agriculture and food security in ADF countries

The Bank is working to improve food security and boost the agricultural sector in ADF countries. ADF operations supported 24 403 agribusinesses, 8 380 of whom were led or owned by women (Table 4). Additionally, ADF operations supported 524 780 farmers (266 714 of whom were women) in using improved and climate-resilient technologies and inputs, over double the target.

Ghana's *Savannah Zone Agricultural Productivity Improvement Project* has generated transformative results in agricultural productivity, market expansion, and environmental stewardship. By doubling maize yields – from 2.5 to 5.5 tons per hectare – and boosting rice and soybean production, the project substantially enhanced food availability. Women farmers gained economically through the rehabilitation of irrigation dams, which increased vegetable outputs and supported economic autonomy as well as improvements in gender equality. Through the project, farmers' market access improved, and they sold 165 000 MT of maize, soybeans, and rice, enabling them to buy inputs and productive assets. The construction of 57 km of feeder roads improved farmers' access to markets and agricultural inputs. The project had a strong environmental sustainability focus, promoting tree planting and buffer zone restoration. Training reached over 100 farmers, promoting the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.

In Burkina Faso, the ADF-funded *Bagré Growth Pole Support Project* strengthened agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods by markedly improving yields and economic resilience. Market garden outputs surged by 66.7%, and maize productivity rose from 1.5 to 2.5 tons per hectare due to upgraded inputs and farmer capacity building. Rice and vegetable cultivation expanded, fuelling household incomes, particularly among women and small-scale producers, who saw income growth of over 61%. The creation of banks, fuel stations, and equipment factories at the Bagré Growth Centre catalysed agribusiness development and also generated over 6 000 jobs, laying the groundwork for sustained community empowerment.

One of the Bank's most significant efforts to improve food security is the *Africa Emergency Food Production Facility (AEFPF)*. The aim of the Facility is to rapidly support farmers in 35 countries with certified seeds and fertiliser in the face of global supply disruptions. From its approval in May 2022 up to the end of January 2025, $1.385 billion had been disbursed across 37 operations, representing 92.6% of the approved budget. Under the AEFPF, $206 million of ADF financing was disbursed to the *Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation Programme* in Ghana, Guinea, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Madagascar, Sudan, and Tanzania (Box 2).

Progress in ADF-16 delivery and policy actions to enhance food security and productivity

Under the ADF-16 cycle, the Bank met its target to improve food self-sufficiency in ADF countries by investing in six regional projects. These projects are in line with

Box 2: Boosting climate-smart yields across Africa

The Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme financed by the ADF under the AEFPF, is designed to rapidly scale up proven agricultural technologies across the continent. Operating in countries such as Ghana, Guinea, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Madagascar, Sudan, and Tanzania, TAAT aims to double agricultural productivity, reach over 40 million farmers, and transform Africa into a net food exporter. It achieves this through three core mechanisms: creating an enabling environment for technology adoption; building regional delivery infrastructure; and deploying climate-smart innovations across key value chains including rice, wheat, maize, cassava, and aquaculture.

The second phase of the programme has made tangible progress across several countries. Since it began, the project has boosted average cereal yields by 32%, created 262 786 jobs for women and youth along the value chain, and trained 343 880 people in agricultural practices and climate-smart agricultural practices.

Table 4: Level 2 – Agricultural productivity, agriproduct processing and food security (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● Agribusinesses supported (number)	21 838	24 403	>100%
● — *Led/owned by women*	7 571	8 380	>100%
● Farmers using improved and climate-resilient technologies and inputs (number)	247 825	524 780	>100%
● — *Of which women*	128 612	266 714	>100%
● Food-secure population (number)	24 996 373	24 888 825	100%
● — *Of which women*	12 436 443	12 395 704	100%

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target

its commitment to advancing sustainable agricultural development, food security, and resilience across Africa. For instance, the *Multinational Regional Resilient Rice Value Chains Development Project in West Africa*, approved in 2024, focuses on strengthening food security and sovereignty by promoting investment in the rice value chain. It aims to increase local rice production, improve processing, and enhance nutrition and food security by fostering public and private sector partnerships. The project, funded by the Bank and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, covers 15 member countries and includes a climate adaptation component.

The *Multinational Technical Support Project for the Restoration of the Ecological and Economic Functions of the Lake Chad Basin*, approved in November 2024 with UA 7 million in funding, aims to revitalise the Lake Chad Basin's ecological integrity and economic viability. Covering six member countries — Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Libya — the project focuses on preparatory studies, institutional strengthening, and improved water resource governance. By restoring degraded ecosystems and promoting climate-adaptive livelihoods, such as irrigated agriculture and sustainable fishing, the project is expected to enhance food security and nutrition for vulnerable communities across the region.

Regional integration

Regional integration is pivotal to advancing economic growth and development across Africa through the free movement of goods, services, people and finance. In 2024, the Bank continued its efforts to advance Africa's continental integration efforts by investing in integrated economic corridors, cross-border infrastructure and energy, agriculture, policy harmonisation and AfCFTA implementation through ADF-supported projects.

Development context

Regional integration is crucial for Africa, enabling the continent to overcome fragmented markets, scale up industrialisation, and unlock economic opportunities through infrastructure, harmonised policies, and expanded trade. However, the share of intra-African trade in total goods trade fell to 12.5% in 2024 from 13.7% in 2020, highlighting enduring structural and logistical hurdles to regional trade integration. In ADF countries, the share of intra-African trade fell slightly to 22.8% in 2022 from 23.4% in 2020.

A combination of factors hinders regional integration, including persistent non-tariff barriers, inadequate transport and logistics systems, and slow adoption of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) protocols at the national level.

Infrastructure is essential for regional integration, yet progress remains slow, with the Africa Infrastructure Development Index, which measures the status and progress of infrastructure development across Africa, rising only marginally from 0.28 in 2020 to 0.31 in 2024. Persistent gaps in infrastructure, especially across borders, continue to hinder the free movement of goods and people, underscoring the need for targeted investment to unlock the continent's integration.

Human mobility across borders is a critical element of regional integration. The African Union's *Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons* aims to grant African citizens the right to enter, reside, and establish businesses in any African Union member state, thereby promoting continental integration. However, the continent shows limited progress on visa openness, with the 2024 *Africa Visa Openness Index* deteriorating slightly since 2020 in ADF countries but improving modestly in transition states (Table 5).

Delivering regional integration and improving connectivity in ADF countries

The Bank has taken a leading role in advancing regional integration, and the ADF has delivered successfully against its targets. The ADF-supported operations constructed or rehabilitated 614 km of cross-border and national roads and improved access to transport for more than 3.5 million people. ADF financing has also improved access to energy by constructing 2 012 km of cross-border and national transmission lines. These results underscore the ADF's catalytic role in driving continental integration, trade, and inclusive growth (Table 6).

The Bank has intensified its support to cross-border infrastructure through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the African Union's continent-wide framework for planning and coordinating large, cross-border infrastructure projects that advance regional integration. Through targeted investments in energy networks, transportation corridors, shared waterways, and digital infrastructure, the initiative is unlocking new opportunities for trade and strengthening economic collaboration among African countries.

The *Ndendé-Dolisie Road and Corridor Facilitation Project* – jointly funded by the ADF, the European Union-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, and the Government of Congo – has significantly improved regional connectivity along the Libreville–Brazzaville corridor. The project rehabilitated 130 km of roads, built 103 km of new corridors, and eliminated key bottlenecks, cutting travel time from three days to 4.5 hours. The project boosted incomes in Nyanga, created 700 jobs, empowered women and youth, and introduced climate

Table 5: Level 1 – Regional Integration

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
○ Regional infrastructural integration index (low = 0 / high = 1)	0.15	N/A	0.11	N/A
● African visa openness index (0 Low - 1 High)	0.54	0.52	0.48	0.49
● Intra-Africa trade as a proportion of total goods' trade (%)	23.4	22.8 (2022)	24.2	22.6 (2022)

● Regression compared to the baseline ○ Data not available to measure progress

Table 6: Level 2 – Regional integration (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● Cross-border and national roads constructed or rehabilitated (km)	608	614	>100%
● Cross-border and national transmission lines constructed (km)	2 315	2 012	87%
● People with improved access to transport (number)	3 529 992	3 537 018	>100%
● — *Of which women*	1 816 804	1 820 537	>100%

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target

resilience measures. It also strengthened institutional capacity and enhanced transport efficiency, trade, and social resilience across Central Africa.

The *Regional Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project* (Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania) exported 307 GWh of electricity in 2024. Located at Rusumo Falls on the Kagera River, where the borders of the three countries converge, the project aims to generate electricity for all three countries. The project – co-financed by the ADF, Nigeria Trust Fund, and the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund – enabled Burundi and Rwanda to decommission 65 MW of diesel generation, resulting in over $17 million in cost savings and preventing more than 81 000 tonnes of CO_2e emissions. Power imports from Rusumo have also strengthened the financial sustainability of national utility companies in Burundi and Rwanda. (See also Box 3).

Progress in ADF-16 delivery and commitments on regional integration

Under the ADF-16 cycle, the Bank delivered its four regional integration commitments, underpinned by strategic alignment, proactive pipeline development, and effective coordination mechanisms.

The ADF is committed to allocating more resources from the Regional Operations Envelope (ROE) in the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and the Horn of Africa. At the end of June 2025, 32% of resources from the RO were allocated for operations in these regions, exceeding the ADF-16 end-of-cycle target of 30%. Additionally, the Bank has exceeded its targets on allocating resources to PIDA -related operations, including transport, energy, water and ICT initiatives. At the end of June 2025, eight PIDA-aligned operations were approved, surpassing the target

Box 3: Reshaping regional power trade in East Africa

Through ADF strategic investments in the energy sector, the Bank supported a major regional power trade initiative, transmitting hydroelectric power from Ethiopia to Tanzania via Kenya's national grid. The initiative, part of the Eastern Africa Power Pool, uses high-voltage interconnectors to enable cross-border electricity trade, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and accelerate energy access across East Africa. Ethiopia exports surplus renewable energy using Kenya's infrastructure to Tanzania, which in turn benefits from cheaper, cleaner power. These transformative projects – knitting national grids into a resilient, efficient, and renewable energy ecosystem- generate large export revenues for Ethiopia, position Kenya as a key energy transit hub, and lay the groundwork for a competitive regional electricity market.

These impactful ADF investments, delivered in partnership with the World Bank and national governments include:

- Ethiopia–Kenya Electricity Highway: A 1 045 km transmission line (433 km in Ethiopia, 612 km in Kenya), with a 2 000 MW capacity, has delivered 1 305 GWh of extra energy to Kenya in 2024. In the second half of 2024, electricity imports from Ethiopia accounted for over 12% of Kenya's national energy purchases, displacing approximately 635 GWh of fossil fuel generation, resulting in lower consumer costs, stronger financials for Kenya Power (the national power utility company), and increased forex revenue for Ethiopia.
- 400 kV Kenya–Tanzania Power Interconnection Projects: commissioned at the end of 2024, the 400 kV link enabled cross-border power exchange, bolstered voltage stability in northern Tanzania, improved supply quality, and reduced grid blackouts.

of six projects. By prioritising and aligning projects with the PIDA, the Bank was able to fast-track project readiness and secure timely approvals.

A transformative regional infrastructure initiative is the *Labé–Mali (City)–Kédougou–Fongolembi Inter-State Road Development Project*, approved in 2024 and co-financed by the ADF to strengthen connectivity between Guinea and Senegal. Spanning 240 km of roads, the project aims to boost trade, improve access to markets and services, and foster regional integration under the AfCFTA framework.

While Regional Operations have largely focused on physical connectivity, ADF-16 emphasized Regional Public Goods (RPGs) to tackle cross-border challenges beyond the scope of individual countries. By mid-2025, eleven RPGs and fourteen ROs had been approved, mobilizing UA 1 066.28 million. These initiatives promote policy harmonization, financial integration, stronger health systems, climate resilience, sustainable resource management, and food security — delivering shared benefits across nations.

Notable examples approved in 2023 include the *Enabling Environments for Sustainable Regional Agriculture Extension (ENSURE)* program, which enhances agricultural productivity in East Africa through harmonized extension services and cross-country collaboration, and the *Desert to Power Regional Technical Assistance Project for the Sahel*, which supports renewable energy expansion and climate-resilient growth across Sahelian countries.

Water, sanitation and health infrastructure

Ensuring the water security and access to safely managed water and sanitation is essential for Africa's sustainable development. However, rapid population growth continues to intensify pressure on service providers, highlighting the urgent need for accelerated progress. Across the continent, health indicators are improving: access to health services is expanding, life expectancy is rising, and communicable diseases are increasingly being eliminated. ADF-supported operations have made significant contributions to improving access to water, sanitation, and health infrastructure in Africa.

Development context

Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services remains a critical challenge, with 418 million people in Africa lacking safe drinking water, 779 million people without basic sanitation, and nearly 839 million people lacking basic hygiene services.[9] Factors such as conflict, economic instability, and climate change continue to disrupt progress, highlighting the urgent need for coordinated investment and policy action to expand WASH coverage across the continent. The percentage of the population in ADF countries with access to at least basic drinking water services has only marginally improved from the 2020 baseline of 58% to 59% of the population in 2022 (Table 7).

Africa has made some progress on health outcomes, including a decline in communicable, maternal, perinatal, and nutritional

Table 7: Level 1 – Health, water and sanitation

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● Access to at least basic drinking water services (% population)	58	59 (2022)	53	54 (2022)
● Coverage of essential health services (Index 0 low-100 high)	42.4 (2019)	43.6 (2021)	39.5 (2019)	40.8 (2021)
● Population living below the poverty line (%)	40.9	39.8 (2023)	52.6	51.9 (2023)
● Income inequality / Gini index (perfect equality = 0 / perfect inequality = 100)	40	39 (2022)	40	39 (2022)

● Improvement compared to the baseline

9 UNICEF and WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), Progress on Sanitation and Hygiene in Africa: 2000–2022, November 2023

diseases, including the elimination of some communicable diseases. However, the coverage of essential health services in ADF countries saw only modest improvements, with the index increasing from 42.4 in 2019 to 43.6 in 2021. Maternal mortality remains alarmingly high in low-income countries (346 per 100 000 live births) and conflict zones (504), far above the global average of 197, the SDG target of 70, and just 10 in high-income nations. Boosting investment in primary healthcare is essential to improving maternal and child health outcomes.

Improving quality of life through ADF efforts

ADF-supported operations have improved access to better water, sanitation, and healthcare services, surpassing targets on water and sanitation. The Fund has helped 2.9 million people access new or improved water services, over 300 000 people access new or improved sanitation services, and 1.2 million people access better health services.

The *National Integrated Rural Water Sector Project* in Mauritania has significantly improved people's access to clean water and sanitation. This project provided 110 000 people with drinking water, 50% of whom were women, and ended open-air defecation in 140 villages. In addition, 78 public institutions (schools and health centres) now have latrines, and 47 wells have been built for livestock, easing water competition. The project adopted a water-energy-food nexus approach, aiming to maximise social and economic gains in addition to the WASH benefits. Through this project, 40 hectares of irrigated land were developed, and 24 women were trained in market gardening, leading to enhanced food security and increased incomes. Women have been central to the project's success. For example, in Mbahé, a village in the Senegal River Valley, over 260 women formed the Pellital cooperative ("determination" in Pular language) and established thriving market gardens using borehole-fed irrigation, creating new income opportunities. (See also Box 4).

Another example of the ADF's contribution to WASH access is the *Arusha Sustainable Water and Sanitation Delivery Project* in Tanzania. Co-financed by the African Development Fund (ADF), the African Development Bank, and the Africa Growing Together Fund, the project has provided 605 641 people with clean drinking water and created direct and indirect employment opportunities for 19 443 people, including 479 positions for women and 16 404 for youth. The project invested heavily in the local community, generating jobs through infrastructure development, running training programmes, and stimulating the local economy with approximately $65 million spent within

Box 4: ADF drives progress in health, water, and gender equality in the DRC

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Bank supported the *Socio-economic Infrastructure Reinforcement Project* in the regions of Oriental Kasaï and Western Kasaï, which are home to more than 8.2 million people representing 12% of the population of the country. The project, which was financed by $140 million from the ADF, had three components: health, water and sanitation infrastructure development; conducting feasibility studies and capacity building; and project coordination and management.

As a result of the project, 168 815 people gained access to drinking water; 41 000 people gained access to improved sanitation services; jobs were created for 2 260 people; the water network increased by approximately 60 000 linear metres; and water storage capacity increased by 680 cubic metres. Mr. François Rubota, the Minister of State, Ministry of Rural Development, applauded the project, and its capacity to supply water to 60 localities, supporting hundreds of thousands of residents.

The project also financed the construction of a Multifunctional Gender Centre in Mbuji-Mayi, which helped provide training and coaching to over 1 000 women in income-generating activities and business units' establishment and management. The Centre also provided literacy training and sensitisation on health, education, gender and hygiene to over 7 200 women and men.

Box 5: ADF investment boosts biomedical excellence in East Africa

In Rwanda, the ADF-supported the construction of the *Multinational Regional Centre of Excellence for Biomedical Engineering and E-Health (CEBE)*. The Centre has trained 680 professionals, including students, faculty, and health practitioners, with women comprising 40% of trainees. Notably, it supported Rwanda's first two female PhD students in biomedical engineering, demonstrating progress toward inclusivity and gender equity. In 2025, CEBE was named a WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications (ICD, ICHI, ICF), highlighting its global leadership in health informatics. This project is part of the first phase of the East Africa *Centres of Excellence for Skills and Tertiary Education in Biomedical Sciences Project*. It aims to contribute to the development of a highly skilled workforce in biomedical sciences to meet the East African Community labour market's needs and support implementation of labour market protocols.

the locality. The project also integrated climate resilience measures and community participation to ensure long-term sustainability.

ADF is also driving transformative health investments: In The Gambia, the *Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project* approved in 2023 (with additional financing in 2025), is enhancing rural livelihoods and access to basic services—especially for vulnerable youth and women. It is rehabilitating and equipping four health facilities, upgrading staff housing, adding 113 hospital beds, supplying ambulances to strengthen referrals and digitalising nutrition surveillance to improve tracking. Overall, the project aims to reach 65 000 people, including 22 000 children, with improved health and nutritional services (see another example in Box 5).

Progress in commitments to deliver on water, sanitation and health infrastructure

Under the ADF-16 cycle, the Bank exceeded its water and sanitation targets in ADF countries. The Bank approved 24 investment operations for improved access to water, sanitation and services, exceeding the target of investment operations in nine countries by end-of-cycle. The concerned countries include Rwanda, Malawi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burundi, Mozambique, Chad, Senegal, Togo, Niger, and Sao Tome and Principe. The Bank also prepared 21 new country water security profiles and diagnostics, helping countries strengthen their water policies and operations. This achievement exceeded the target of 12 country water security profiles by the end of 2025.

Table 8: Level 2 – Health, water and sanitation (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● People with access to better health services (number)	1 400 000	1 203 658	86%
● — *Of which women*	710 627	610 492	86%
● People with new or improved access to water (number)	2 738 400	2 852 794	>100%
● — *Of which women*	1 396 584	1 454 925	>100%
● People with new or improved access to sanitation (number)	292 930	306 222	>100%
● — *Of which women*	148 064	155 730	>100%

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target

An example of an innovative project is *Zambia's Improving Access and Strengthening Innovations for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Kabwe town and Bauleni township*. Approved in 2024, the $13.2 million ADF-financed project aims to enhance access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene for 460 000 people in Kabwe and Bauleni, while boosting climate resilience. With an additional $6.05 million grant from the EU's Nexus Energy and Water Programme for Zambia — part of the Global Gateway strategy — the project will support renewable energy solutions and smart technologies like smart metres to cut operating costs and improve efficiency in water supply systems. The project will also partner with UNICEF to enhance WASH services and raise awareness on nutrition, climate resilience, and waste management among 10 000 people.

Through ADF support, the Bank has approved health operations in 14 countries, involving the rehabilitation or construction and equipping of over 100 health facilities, surpassing the ADF-16 target of five operations by the end of 2025. These include five emergency health responses in South Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, the DRC, and Comoros (2024–2025), 10 sovereign investments in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, The Gambia, and South Sudan, plus two multinational projects covering the CAR and Chad, and Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali. The focus spans primary and tertiary care for kidney, cardiovascular, and cancer diseases, alongside medical training and research. ADF-16 also enabled integration of health interventions in 23 water, energy, and transport operations, focusing on improving access to clean water, sanitation, electricity, road transport and trauma care. The emergency operations helped to contain Ebola in Uganda (2022), Marburg in Rwanda, and Mpox in the DRC (2024).

Digital infrastructure

Digital infrastructure is critically important in Africa. It serves as a foundation for inclusive economic growth, innovation, and improved public service delivery. The Bank is working on expanding digital infrastructure to unlock its socio-economic benefits across ADF countries.

Development context

Africa's digital infrastructure sits at a pivotal crossroads. The continent has seen exponential growth in mobile connectivity: smartphone users surged from 65 million in 2010 to over 680 million by 2023.[10] Nevertheless, widespread adoption of digital services still lags behind global averages. As of early 2024, only 40% of Africans used the internet, and just 22% accessed mobile internet services, despite 4G availability in most regions.[11] Gender disparities remain stark: women are 37% less likely than men to access mobile internet.[12] In ADF countries, internet usage remains below the continental average, with only 24% of the population online — an improvement from 21% in 2020. These gaps underscore the urgency to bridge the digital divide and unlock inclusive growth, with infrastructure deficits, low digital literacy, and regulatory uncertainty posing stubborn barriers.

Delivering digital infrastructure for growth in ADF countries

The ADF supports the *African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy* (2020–2030), which aims to harness digital technologies to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, reduce

Table 9: Level 1 – Digital infrastructure

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● People using the Internet (% of population)	20.6	23.7 (2023)	19.0	20.6 (2023)

● Improvement compared to the baseline

10 Mahlangu, B. (2024) Connecting a Continent: The Mobile Revolution Transforming Africa's Digital Landscape.
11 World Bank (2023) Digital Africa: Technological Transformation for Jobs
12 GSMA (2021) The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2021

Table 10: Level 2 – Digital infrastructure (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● People with improved access to basic ICT services (number)	1 325 250	1 326 200	>100%
● — *Of which women*	464 750	465 200	>100%

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target

poverty and bridge the digital divide. The strategy prioritises building robust digital infrastructure, enhancing digital literacy, promoting innovation, and ensuring cybersecurity and data governance. ADF-financed operations have improved access to basic ICT services for over 1.3 million people (465 200 of whom were women).

Expanding ICT infrastructure is key to improving industrial productivity and integrating supply chains. The *Central Africa Fibre-Optic Backbone Project*, completed in 2024 in the CAR, demonstrates this approach, delivering 900 km of fibre-optic cable and establishing 11 technical facilities, including a Network Operations Centre in Bangui. As a result, internet penetration jumped from 2.2% to 30% and the project generated over 4 000 jobs. Co-financed by the Bank, the EU's Africa Investment Platform, and the Transition Support Facility (TSF), this project will support the region to transform its digital infrastructure and develop its ICT sector.

Road to growth

Lomé–Cotonou corridor strengthens regional ties and unlocks new opportunities.

Pillar 2: Governance, capacity building, and sustainable debt management

Economic governance reforms, public finance management, and debt management

Africa's economy shows signs of resilience in the face of global challenges, with public debt levels stabilising and domestic resource mobilisation capacity growing in ADF countries. The Bank has supported ADF countries in strengthening their economic governance, implementing reforms, improving public financial management and ensuring sustainable and transparent debt management.

Development context

GDP grew on average by 4.7% in 2024, compared to 3.3% in 2023, in ADF countries. However, the recovery remains fragile amid persistent inflation, currency depreciation, and mounting debt servicing burdens.[13]

Overall, public debt levels in Africa are stabilising due to improved global financial conditions, economic growth, and fiscal consolidation measures. The average debt-to-GDP ratio declined to approximately 61% in 2024, down from 63.3% during 2021–2023, and is expected to drop further to 57.5% by the end of 2025.

Improving domestic resource mobilisation, especially tax revenue, is a key strategy for managing and reducing public debt levels across Africa. ADF countries have made significant progress in improving their repayment capacity, as demonstrated by increases in average tax-to-GDP ratios from 12.2% in 2020 to 17.1% in 2023 and the average tax-to-debt ratios which grew from 17% in 2020 to 18.1% in 2023.

Nonetheless, despite this progress, debt distress remains a major concern, with 19 ADF countries either in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress.

The Bank continues to support ADF countries in strengthening their economic governance, public finance and debt management

The Bank champions the improvement of African governance and economic stability through targeted interventions that address macroeconomic challenges, fiscal discipline and

Table 11: Level 1 – Economic Governance Reforms, PFM and debt management

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● Tax-to-GDP ratio (%)	12.2	17.1 (2023)	9.0	10.5 (2023)
● Countries in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress (number)	20 (2023)	19	10 (2023)	9

● Improvement compared to the baseline

13 AfDB African Economic Outlook 2025, and IMF World Economic Outlook 2025

resilience of key sectors. Through ADF contributions, six countries have improved their Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) governance score, four countries have improved their macroeconomic policy management, and five countries have improved their competitive business environment (Table 12).

Two prime examples of ADF-backed projects to improve economic governance are the *Non-Oil Revenue Mobilization and Accountability Phase II in South Sudan* which is accelerating domestic resource mobilization (see box 6 below) and the *Digitisation of Government Payments Project in the Mano River Union*. Set to close in 2025, the Mano River Union project is being implemented in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, with the overarching goal of increasing the digitisation of transactions across public administrations and populations. It aims to establish a robust digital payments ecosystem to support mass transactions and enhance transparency, security, and efficiency in public resource management. Through the digitisation and automation of tax, customs, and other government services, the project aims to strengthen fiscal governance and operational effectiveness. It also promotes financial inclusion for vulnerable groups by expanding access to government-to-person and person-to-government payment channels, coupled with targeted financial education. In addition, it supports greater tax compliance and the formalisation of very small enterprises operating in the informal sector, contributing to more inclusive and resilient economic systems across the region.

The Bank is also supporting ADF countries through targeted capacity development initiatives. Through the Public Finance Management Academy for Africa, structured executive training and technical assistance are being delivered. Of the 51 graduates in the first cohort, 26 were from ADF countries, with 236 participants currently enrolled in the second. Technical Assistance has reached Malawi, The Gambia, Comoros, the CAR, and Togo in various areas of public financial and debt management.

To strengthen policy dialogue, the Bank launched the Debt Management Forum for Africa and the African Debt Management Initiative Network in 2024. These platforms bring together Ministries of Finance, Debt Management Offices, central banks, international financial institutions, the private sector, and civil society to share best practices and solutions for effective debt management across Africa, including ADF countries. Under the TSF Pillar III,[14] 22 transition states are receiving support to manage and mitigate debt distress risks through training, technical assistance, and policy dialogue. Two spotlight learning events were held in 2024 and 2025.

The Macroeconomic Policy Management Academy for Africa also supports capacity building. Its first cohort includes 300 participants from 48 countries, the majority of whom are from ADF countries. Tailored training is being delivered to 10 Anglophone and 10 Francophone countries identified as having significant capacity gaps in macroeconomic modelling. Technical assistance is ongoing for Zimbabwe, the CAR, and The Gambia.

Table 12: Level 2 – Economic Governance Reforms, PFM and debt management (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● Countries supported by AfDB that registered improved CPIA governance score (number)	7	6	86%
● Countries supported by AfDB that registered improved macroeconomic policy management (number)	6	4	67%
● Countries supported by AfDB that registered improved competitive business environment (number)	5	5	100%
○ Countries supported by AfDB that registered improved frameworks for enhanced natural resources governance (number)	-	-	

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target ● Indicator achieved below 70% of the anticipated target ○ Data are not available to measure progress

14 Strengthening the Capacity of Transition States for Effective Management and Mitigation of Debt Distress Risks

Progress in governance and sustainable debt management delivery and policy actions

Under the ADF-16 cycle, the Bank achieved, or is on track to achieve, its ADF-16 commitments on governance and debt management. As of June 2025, the Bank delivered 27 ADF-financed governance operations, totalling UA 394.3 million, addressing core areas of economic governance, including public expenditure management, domestic resource mobilisation, sustainable debt management and enhancing the enabling environment for private sector-led economic recovery and resilience. The Bank has supported 20 ADF countries in strengthening their ability to implement policies that promote macroeconomic stability and ensure the effective, accountable, and transparent management of public finances. It has also assisted eight countries in combating corruption and illicit financial flows.

The Bank is assisting countries in managing their public debt sustainably under its Sustainable Borrowing Policy, approved in 2022. The policy strives for greater complementarity, harmonisation, and alignment with the World Bank and IMF, and enhanced support for sustainable borrowing practices by ADF countries. In ADF countries classified as at high or moderate risk of debt distress, the policy requires that agreed policy actions on debt management and transparency be built into all programme-based operations. This approach has been piloted across six countries: Comoros, Ghana, The Gambia, Kenya, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe– all of which are in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress.

Support for combating illegal financial flows and corruption has been strengthened by the *Policy for the Prevention of Illicit Financial Flows* and its accompanying Strategic Action Plan. Under ADF-16, projects in the CAR, Comoros, Djibouti, Mozambique, Somalia, Sao Tome and Principe, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe include outcomes aimed at preventing illicit financial flows. For example, *Mozambique's Economic Acceleration and Governance Support Programme* approved in 2023, aimed to enhance the efficiency, accountability, and transparency of public spending. A prior policy action was the approval of a revised law on the Prevention and Fight Against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing,—one of several actions to be implemented within 2 years to exit the FATF grey list.

There are several examples of recent ADF-financed projects that aim to improve governance, capacity building, and sustainable debt management. These include an institutional support programme in Guinea-Bissau approved in 2024, aimed at strengthening public financial management and fiscal sustainability to foster economic resilience. Another example is *Kenya's Economic Inclusion and Green Recovery Support Programme,* approved in 2024, which promotes prudent fiscal and debt management reforms to support sustainable development. Additionally, *Somalia's Institutional Support for Economic Governance project* approved in 2023, is improving debt recording, reporting, and statistics, while strengthening the legal and institutional framework for debt management. With support from the Bank, Somalia reached the HIPC Completion Point in December 2023, securing substantial debt relief. As part of its broader response

Box 6: Five-fold increase of non-oil revenues in South Sudan

Following South Sudan's independence in 2011, the Bank embarked on various interventions to bolster state capacities, including in domestic resources mobilisation, and enhanced transparency and accountability in public financial management. Through a UA 4.8 million *Institutional Support to PFM and Aid Coordination project (PFAID)*, completed in 2017, the Fund supported South Sudan to diversify its public revenues and thus, reduce its dependence on oil resources, which account for over 90% of total revenues. The first ADF operation in the country, the intervention focused on establishing and operationalising the South Sudan National Revenue Authority (SSRA), including decentralised regional offices, which consolidated domestic and customs tax revenue collection under a single agency. In 2017, the UA 10.65 million *Non-Oil Revenue Mobilization and Accountability project* was approved to consolidate the work of PFAID by supporting the SSRA to improve its tax regulation and collection capacities. The establishment of the SSRA, introduction of the electronic tax system, training of tax officers, partnerships with the African Tax Administration Forum and tax authorities in Kenya and Tanzania, taxpayer education program, among others, has improved tax revenue collection. Non-oil revenue collections increased from $27 million in 2020-2021 to $217 million in 2024. Building on this success, a second phase of institutional support—**NORMA II**—was approved under ADF-16 to further strengthen tax and customs capacity, coinciding with the launch of the South Sudan Institute of Revenue Administration (SSIRA), a national centre of excellence for training tax officials.

to Africa's debt challenges, the Bank launched the Africa Debt Managers Initiative Network to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration among debt managers. In 2024, it also organised the first Debt Management Forum for Africa. Both initiatives complement ADF-16-financed operations.

Domestic revenue mobilisation and stronger public financial management are vital for improving expenditure efficiency, meeting financing needs, and reducing debt vulnerabilities. The Bank has made this a key focus, with 80% of ADF-16 governance operations targeting domestic resource mobilisation. Efforts include enhancing tax and customs efficiency, broadening the tax base, curbing illicit financial flows, and supporting digitalisation, HR systems, organisational reforms, and legislative changes in areas like natural resource taxation, VAT, property tax, and exemptions. For example, the newly approved *Institutional Support for Enhanced Domestic Revenue Mobilisation and Reform Implementation project* in Liberia seeks to enhance domestic revenue collection, modernise tax systems, and improve debt management capacity through technical assistance and policy advice, reinforcing fiscal governance (See also Box 6).

Water for all

In Arusha, Tanzania, clean water boosts health, school outcomes, and gender equality.

Advancing strategic lenses and cross-cutting areas: fragility, climate change, gender, youth and jobs, and the private sector

Climate action scaled up

Although Africa has contributed minimally to global CO_2 emissions historically, it bears a disproportionate share of the impacts of climate change and receives only a marginal portion of global climate finance. The Bank remains firmly committed to advancing the continent's green development and mobilising substantial climate finance through the ADF.

Development context

The effects of climate change are already being felt across Africa, with intensifying extreme weather events that affect food security, infrastructure, and livelihoods. These events compromise Africa's development progress and even reverse recent gains. Africa's greenhouse gas emissions have risen slightly,[15] with ADF countries' contribution increasing by 0.1 gigatons CO_2 (from 1.2 to 1.3 gigatons CO_2e) between 2020 and 2023. Despite these relatively small contributions to global emissions and the disproportionate effects of climate change on the continent, African countries receive only 3% of global climate finance,[16] far below the amount needed to adequately mitigate carbon emissions and adapt to climate change. The Global Green Growth Index, which measures sustainability targets, shows a slight improvement in ADF countries, with the score rising from 48.3 in 2020 to 48.9 in 2023, which is within the moderate score range. There is an urgent need for increased investments in renewable energy and other green growth initiatives for ADF countries to become more resilient in the face of rising climate threats.

ADF is prioritising climate action and scaling up climate finance

The Bank has demonstrated its commitment to mainstreaming climate resilience and green growth principles in its operations, with 98% of projects integrating measures to build climate

Table 13: Level 1 – Climate action scaled up

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● GHG emissions (gigatons CO_2e)	1.2	1.3 (2023)	0.5	0.6 (2023)
● Green Growth Index (Score: 1= low; 100= high)	48.3	48.9 (2023)	47.0	47.6 (2023)

● Improvement compared to the baseline ● Regression compared to the baseline

15 EDGAR (2025) GHG emissions across the world
16 ESI Africa (2025) Africa: 7-point roadmap to drive climate finance

Table 14: Level 2 – Climate action scaled up (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● Climate finance commitments (%)	40%	56%	Exceeded target
○ Net GHG emissions (CO_2e)	-	-	

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target ○ Data not available to measure progress

resilience of communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems. The Bank has made substantial investments in strengthening staff capacity on climate change and green growth. In 2024, 500 staff members across regional offices received training on the Bank's climate change commitments, mainstreaming tools, climate finance instruments, and their access modalities. The Bank continues to advance toward its goal of aligning operations with the Paris Agreement, targeting full alignment with both mitigation and adaptation objectives by the end of 2025.

The Climate Action Window (CAW), launched in June 2023 under the Sixteenth Replenishment of the African Development Fund (ADF-16), is a transformative initiative aimed at bridging Africa's $30 billion annual climate finance gap. With $442 million mobilised, CAW supports climate resilience across 37 African countries, laying a foundation for sustainable development and targeted support to vulnerable communities.

CAW's funding prioritises investments in adaptation (73%), followed by mitigation (14%) and technical assistance (13%). By the end of 2024, 87.3% of resources had been allocated, following the prioritisation of proposals for financing. Under the adaptation window, 41 projects were prioritised in agriculture, water, sanitation, and early warning systems, with eight of these approved by August 2025. Notable among these is the *Climate-Proof Water4Food Project* in Ethiopia and South Sudan, which will benefit 211 000 people. These efforts attracted $170.2 million in climate co-financing and $1.6 billion in broader development finance.

Mitigation efforts exceeded expectations, achieving a 1:3.2 leverage ratio and mobilising $202.7 million in co-finance. Eighteen mitigation projects have been prioritised for funding. Selection under the Technical Assistance sub-window is ongoing and will conclude by end of 2025. Strategic partnerships with the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility are expanding CAW's reach, including a $30 million early warning initiative in the Sahel.

Looking ahead, CAW's 2025 strategy focuses on bridging the climate finance gap through deeper donor engagement, enhanced technical assistance, and private sector mobilisation. With Africa's climate finance needs estimated at $213 billion, CAW's first-year success—and the $2 billion in demand it generated—underscores the urgency of scaling innovative financing models to deliver inclusive, climate-resilient solutions across the continent.

An example of a newly approved ADF operation working on climate action is the *Freetown WASH and Aquatic Environment Revamping Project* in Sierra Leone, which aims to enhance climate resilience, water access, and ecosystem sustainability for over 1.4 million residents. With $189 million in financing, including support from the ADF and Green Climate Fund, the project integrates climate-resilient catchment protection measures, multi-hazard early warning systems, and gender-sensitive planning to address urban flooding, water stress, and sanitation challenges. By revitalising aquatic environments and embedding adaptation into urban infrastructure, the project strengthens both public health and ecological integrity in a rapidly urbanising context.

Progress in ADF-16 climate commitments

Under the ADF-16 cycle, the Bank achieved or is on track to achieve six ADF-16 climate commitments. Notably, all ADF-16 operations

Table 15: Level 1 – Resilience enhanced

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● Fragile States Index (0 = low; 120 = high))	90.1	88.4	94.9	93.5
● Refugees and internally displaced people (millions)	27.3	41.4	21.6	33.8

● Improvement compared to the baseline ● Regression compared to the baseline

aligned with the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degrees target and its building blocks.[17] As of 2024, 49% of project approvals (Bank) were allocated as climate finance, 56% of which went to adaptation and 44% to mitigation. For ADF, 56% of approvals were allocated as climate finance- well above the 40% target- with 86% for adaptation and 14% for mitigation. The Bank is also going beyond just examining climate aspects of projects and has now created new indicators that capture biodiversity alongside climate, which are captured in the climate change and green growth monitoring, evaluation, results, and learning system. In 2024, 99% of ADF-approved projects were based on climate-informed designs, with climate-related results indicators included in all operations.

The Bank's mid-term target to roll out one clean cooking solutions project was met, and progress is underway to achieve the end-of-cycle target of three clean cooking operations. The *Uganda Biogas and Electric Cooking Project and the Kenya eCooking Market Development Project* projects were approved in 2025 under the adaptation sub-window, while an additional four projects covering four countries have been prioritised for funding in 2025 under the mitigation sub-window of the CAW.

The Bank also met its mid-term target by assisting seven ADF countries in developing and implementing their country climate plans, which are aligned with the Paris Agreement. These include Liberia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Zambia. The Bank remains on track to meet its goal of supporting 15 countries by the end of the cycle, with several additional CAW proposals aimed at supporting climate action in ADF countries currently under review.

Resilience enhanced

Conflict and fragility—whether at subnational, national, or cross-border levels—continue to pose significant threats across Africa. Hard-won development gains are increasingly undermined by the combined effects of fragility, forced displacement and climate-induced shocks. The ADF is uniquely positioned to provide leadership in these contexts. Through the Transition Support Facility (TSF), it has scaled up its engagement in fragile settings. Fragility remains a central focus of the Fund's operations, guiding its ongoing efforts to build resilience in Africa.

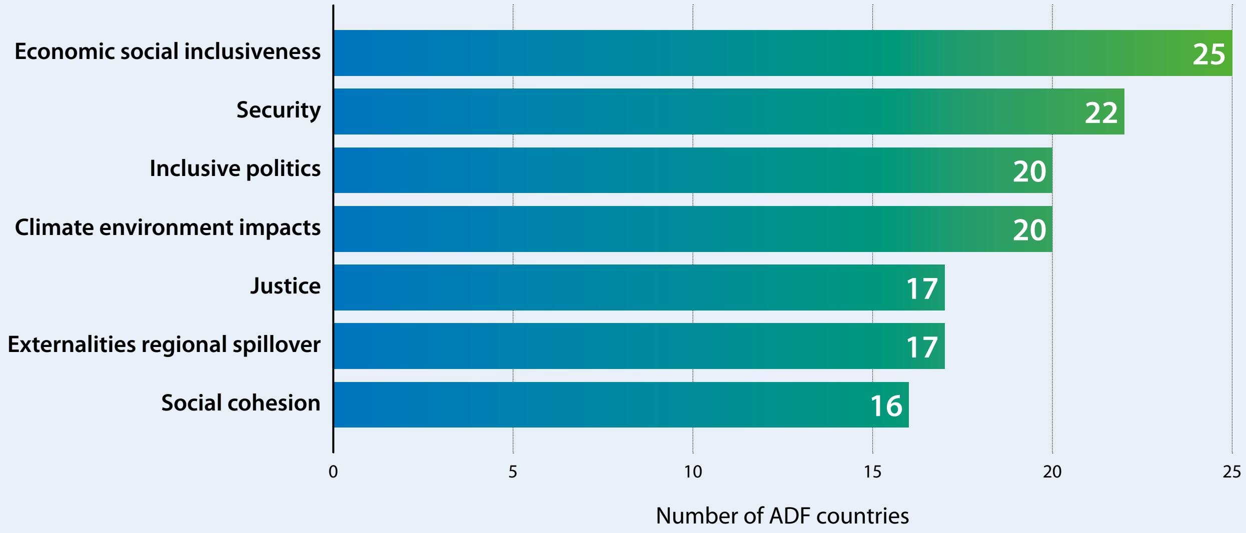
Development context

Conflicts, forced displacement, and climate-induced shocks intensified in Africa's most vulnerable regions in 2024, directly threatening over 250 million people. In the past two decades, conflict claimed an estimated 576 000 lives, while the number of refugees and internally displaced persons in ADF countries surged from 27.3 million to 41.4 million in 2024.

The Fragile States Index (FSI) continues to reflect these pressures. Although the ADF average improved slightly to 88.4 in 2024 (from 90.1 in 2020), countries such as Sudan and Somalia remain among the world's most fragile due to ongoing political instability, weak governance, and recurrent humanitarian crises. These fragile and conflict-affected contexts require sustained efforts to tackle root causes and build lasting peace and resilience.

17 Building Blocks (BB) 1 on Mitigation, BB2 on Adaptation, BB3 on Climate Finance, and BB4 on Country engagement and Policy support are considered fully aligned, while progress is ongoing towards full alignment for BB5 on Reporting and BB 6 on Internal Activities,

Figure 1: ADF Countries with Improved Capacity Scores in CRFA



The Bank's Country Resilience and Fragility Assessment (CRFA), which assesses relative pressures and adaptive capacity, offers a complementary view. In 2024, 17 ADF countries registered improvements across four resilience dimensions, demonstrating that even in complex settings, institutional capacity can be strengthened when investments are targeted and prevention-focused (see Figure 1).

ADF is addressing fragility and building resilience in ADF countries

The Bank systematically applies a context-specific and conflict-sensitive fragility lens to all of its operations, ensuring maximum positive impacts while lowering the risk of harm. The Bank's Fragility Strategy and the operationalisation of its ADF financing instruments — including the TSF — remain catalytic, enabling it to work with partners to deliver results in diverse fragile contexts. Its engagement with Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) actors is helping to integrate durable and market-oriented solutions into traditional humanitarian interventions. In transition states, the ADF has surpassed its planned contributions in all measured areas: 500 761 people gained access to electricity, 180 221 farmers adopted improved and climate-resilient technologies, and 825 enterprises accessed finance. Women were the majority beneficiaries across these three areas, demonstrating the ADF's commitment to gender equality in its operations.

One significant project supporting increased resilience on the continent is the *Support Project for Alternative Welfare of Children and Young People Involved in the Cobalt Supply Chain* in the DRC. By integrating gender considerations into project design and implementation, the project has empowered women and tackled systemic inequalities in fragile contexts. Supported through a TSF funding, this project provided training to 5 499 women in income-generating activities and organised people into 1 250 agricultural cooperatives, which included training in business and farming. As a result, beneficiaries have been able to pursue sustainable livelihoods, thereby improving both food security and household incomes.

Another example is the *Lomé–Cinkansé–Ouagadougou Corridor Road Rehabilitation and Transport Facilitation Project,* which strengthened infrastructure in Togo, Burkina Faso,

Table 16: Level 2 – Resilience enhanced (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● People provided with access to electricity in transition states (number)	333 290	500 761	>100%
● — *Of which women*	167 368	251 766	>100%
● Farmers using improved and climate-resilient technologies and inputs in transition states (number)	162 220	180 221	>100%
● — *Of which women*	89 854	101 383	>100%
● Enterprises supported with access to finance in transition states (number)	750	825	>100%
● — *Led/owned by women*	400	426	>100%

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target

and neighbouring countries. Co-financed with the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, the project rehabilitated 329 km of roads, improving mobility and access to essential services for 3.2 million people. It also expanded market access, enhanced agricultural supply chains and contributed to job creation, economic opportunities for women and youth, improved healthcare access and increased trade.

Progress in delivering policy actions to address fragility and build resilience

Under the ADF-16 cycle, the Bank met its ADF-16 commitments on fragility, including the preparation and publication of revised TSF Operational Guidelines, collaboration with HDP partners in at least eight strategic and operational engagements aimed at supporting RMCs, and the allocation of significant TSF resources to address root causes of fragility in transition states.

In 2024, the Bank signed three Memoranda of Understanding to advance its fragility and peace agenda with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Interpeace, and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Box 7).

In line with the Bank's prioritisation of crisis prevention over response interventions, UA 365 million was allocated through the TSF Prevention Envelope to anticipate emerging fragility risks in ADF countries. Of this amount, 79% was directed to transition states, underscoring the Fund's commitment to tackling the root causes of fragility in the most vulnerable countries.

The Crisis Response Envelope was utilised selectively across four programmes, reflecting targeted support to a limited number of countries facing acute crises. For instance, in response to displacement caused by the armed conflict in Sudan, the Fund deployed the TSF Crisis Response Envelope to fast-track a joint programming and co-financing initiative with UNDP, aimed

Box 7: Collaboration between the Bank and the International Committee of the Red Cross

The Bank is committed to operating in the most challenging contexts, as demonstrated by the approval of an Operational Framework Agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This framework enables the Bank to leverage the ICRC's extensive experience in conflict zones, strengthening collaboration to improve interventions in challenging contexts. It represents an important step in enhancing the Bank's ability to operate effectively in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Approved in March 2025, the *Crisis Response for Women and Affected Communities Project* in Sudan, is the first initiative operationalised under the Operational Framework Agreement. Co-financed with UA 15 million from the TSF and UA 35.67 million from the ICRC, the project will reach 1.5 million people by restoring health and water services, supporting food security, and training 5 000 volunteers, demonstrating the Fund's ability to deliver transformative, and prevention-oriented results in conflict-affected settings.

at supporting stabilisation and recovery efforts for Sudanese refugees and local communities in the CAR and Chad.

Empowered women

As Africa recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, successive global shocks have intensified persistent socio-economic and health barriers, stalling progress on gender equality and women's empowerment. Accelerating gender parity is not only vital for women and girls but is also a catalyst for inclusive growth and transformative development across the continent.

Development context

The Africa Gender Index, developed by the Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, is a comprehensive tool that measures gender parity across 54 African countries along three dimensions: economic participation, social outcomes, and empowerment and representation. The 2023 report reveals that while the continent has made progress, overall gender parity remains elusive, with the continent achieving just 50.3% on the index (with 100% representing gender parity). ADF countries have a lower average than the continent as a whole, but they have made some progress, achieving a 48.5% score on the index, up from 47.1% in 2019 (Table 17). Women have made gains in indicators related to health and education. However, this progress contrasts with economic setbacks; women's participation in the labour force has declined, and their access to finance and formal employment remains relatively low. Representation in leadership has moved forward slightly, but remains low, with only one in four positions held by women. These results illustrate the urgent need for targeted policies to address gender disparities, as well as greater mainstreaming of gender in the design and implementation of operations and activities.

Empowering women through ADF projects

The ADF targets investments that empower and improve opportunities for women. ADF operations supported direct jobs for 29 575 women and indirect jobs for 217 767 women and enabled 557 women-led/owned enterprises to access finance.

In Mozambique, the *Job Creation and Livelihood Improvement Project* has been pivotal in addressing fragility in Zambézia and Niassa provinces. Focusing on economic empowerment and resilience, the project supported over 1 365 agribusinesses (53% led by women), surpassing its target. The project specifically targeted vulnerable groups, including women, youth and ex-combatants. It supported the improvement of food security for 136 680 people, introducing climate-smart agricultural practices to nearly 20 000 farmers and created 19 660 direct jobs (45% of which went to women).

The *Support Project for Alternative Welfare of Children and Young People in the DRC's Cobalt Supply Chain* shows how gender-inclusive design can empower women and tackle deep-rooted inequalities in fragile settings. Cobalt is essential to the green transition, especially for Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries, with over 70% of global reserves found in the DRC. Despite its importance, the sector faces serious issues, like unsafe working conditions and exploitation in unregulated artisanal mining. ADF, TSF, and partners are working to advance gender equality, empower women, and improve living standards in Lualaba and Haut-Katanga provinces, while building a responsible cobalt value chain (Box 8).

Table 17: Level 1 – Empowered women

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● Africa gender index	47.1 (2019)	48.5 (2023)	42.4 (2019)	44.1 (2023)

● Improvement compared to the baseline

Box 8: Empowering communities and women in the DRC's cobalt supply chain

The *Support Project for Alternative Welfare of Children and Young People Involved in the Cobalt Supply Chain* in the Democratic Republic of Congo, funded by the Bank, integrates gender considerations throughout its implementation. It aligns with national and regional gender frameworks to promote inclusivity.

Key gender integration highlights:

- **Beneficiary Identification:** 37 623 people identified in Haut-Katanga and Lualaba provinces include 16 845 children, 10 552 parents, and 8 226 youth. Women and girls form the majority, totalling 29 374 people.
- **Empowering Women through Income-Generating Activities:** Between November 2024 and February 2025, 5 449 women received training in income-generating activities such as poultry farming, baking, soap production, and oil processing across 23 sites.
- **Cooperatives Formation:** People were organised into 1 250 agricultural cooperatives — 60% of members are women. Training covered leadership, financial literacy, agribusiness skills, livestock farming, and fish farming.

Impact:

These initiatives economically empower women by enabling them to engage in sustainable livelihoods, improving food security, and reducing rural poverty. Women are now better equipped to support their families' education, health, nutrition, and civil registration needs. By fostering entrepreneurship and cooperative development, the project addresses systemic inequalities while enhancing women's roles in local economic transformation.

In 2024, the Bank approved the *Skills for Youth and Women Employability and Productivity Project* in Zimbabwe. The project is designed to advance gender equality and women's empowerment by expanding access to market-relevant skills, productive resources, and entrepreneurial opportunities. With a strong focus on agriculture and vocational training, the project targets structural barriers that limit women's participation in the economy, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas. By promoting inclusive value chains, enhancing technical capacities, and facilitating market linkages, the initiative aims to increase women's income, agency, and leadership in economic activities.

ADF-16 commitment to gender equality

Under the ADF-16 cycle, the Bank achieved all of its gender-related ADF-16 commitments, including supporting the National Statistics Office in Burundi, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe to improve their monitoring and evaluation systems to generate gender-disaggregated data, with plans underway to assist another 26 countries in collaboration with AFAWA/We-FI and the Bank's Statistics department. As of the end of May 2025, 100% of Sovereign Operations approved have direct outcomes that benefit women and girls under the Gender Marker System. In addition, 100% of private sector operations approved were

Table 18: Level 2 – Empowered women (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● Direct jobs supported (number) — *of whom women*	33 909	29 575	87%
● Indirect jobs supported (number) — *of whom women*	257 315	217 767	85%
● Enterprises supported with access to finance (number) — *of whom women-led/owned*	425	557	>100%

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target categorised using the Gender Marker System. The Bank also ensured that a gender diagnostic analysis was incorporated into all Country Diagnostic Notes prepared for the 33 Country Strategy Papers approved across 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Young people empowered

With Africa's youth comprising a large proportion of the workforce, empowering young people is critical to unlocking the continent's potential for inclusive growth. The Bank is responding with targeted investments in education, skills, and entrepreneurship, bridging opportunity gaps and driving job creation across its operations.

Development context

Africa's youth (18–35) make up 60% of the workforce, presenting a powerful opportunity for inclusive growth through targeted investments in education, skills, and employment. Yet, job creation lags: only 3 million formal jobs are available annually for the 12 million youth entering the labour market, leaving nearly 80% unemployed or underemployed in the informal sector.
In ADF countries, over 25% of youth are not in employment, education, or training (NEET), though this is gradually improving. Across Africa, 35% of youth aged 15–24 fall into the NEET category, and the continent has the world's highest—and still growing—out-of-school population. Tertiary enrollment remains low at under 10%, with fewer than 25% pursuing STEM fields critical for innovation and industrialisation. Access to Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is limited, reaching less than 20% of secondary graduates, despite its importance for employability and entrepreneurship. Among employed youth, 46% report a mismatch between their education and job roles. Bridging these gaps through expanded education, training, and job creation is vital for unlocking Africa's demographic dividend.

Creating opportunities for young entrepreneurs through ADF projects

The Bank places emphasis on youth empowerment across its operations, including ADF-financed operations. ADF operations have helped address youth unemployment through job creation, supporting 56 519 young people with access to direct jobs and 234 437 with access to indirect jobs.

One project, *Promoting Investment and Competitiveness in the Tourism Sector Project in Malawi*, trained 647 youth in tourism and hospitality, 40% of whom were women. The

Table 19: Level 1 – Young people empowered

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● Youth neither in employment, education, or training (%)	28	27 (2023)	34	33 (2023)

● Improvement compared to the baseline

Table 20: Level 2 – Young people empowered (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● Direct jobs supported (number) — *of whom youth 15-35*	49 340	56 519	>100%
● Indirect jobs supported (number) — *of whom youth 15-35*	276 780	234 437	85%
○ Enterprises supported with access to finance (number) — *of whom youth*	-	-	

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target ○ Data are not available to measure progress

Box 9: Breaking new ground with the Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Bank in Liberia

The Government of Liberia, in collaboration with the Bank, launched its first *Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Bank in July 2025*. Other similar initiatives are planned in ADF countries. Unlike traditional banks, the model combines three innovative components: an early-stage investment fund for direct equity investments, a Technical Assistance Fund for business development services, and a Credit Guarantee Fund for risk-sharing mechanisms. The ADF is contributing $15.9 million investment, demonstrating its commitment to empowering young entrepreneurs. The ADF is the largest investor, with the Korea Africa Economic Cooperation and the Government of Liberia contributing a combined, additional $1.9 million. The initiative, which targets people aged 18-35, will address the urgent youth unemployment challenge in Liberia, where 60% of the population is under the age of 35.

These Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Banks will help establish over 150 youth-led enterprises, create jobs and unlock more than $500 million in additional lending over the next ten years. Additional Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Banks have been approved for Nigeria, Ethiopia and Côte d'Ivoire, signalling the start of a continent-wide effort to expand access to finance and foster youth entrepreneurship, led by the Bank.

project also established a Tourism MSMEs Incubation Centre at Mzuzu University, that nurtured 24 young entrepreneurs, eight of whom were women. Matching grants supported 18 tourism MSMEs, while community-based conservation activities benefited 34 enterprises with over 60% female membership. Another key youth-focused initiative introduced by the Bank is the *Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Bank*, with the inaugural branch opened in Liberia in July 2025. It serves as a holistic platform aimed at empowering youth-led enterprises and fostering entrepreneurship, with the overarching objective of shifting young people's roles from job seekers to job creators (Box 9).

Progress in youth-related policy actions

Through the SEPA Action Plan (2022–2025), the Bank is scaling up support for ADF countries to invest in TVET and STEM infrastructure, with a focus on digital skills, entrepreneurship, and policy reform. The Bank has surpassed its ADF-16 policy commitment on skills development for green jobs and climate adaptation for youth. It has incorporated youth-focused skills development for green jobs and climate adaptation into 20 operations spanning 18 countries. In 2024, the Bank approved six operations in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, and the DRC. These initiatives are enhancing vocational training, supporting MSMEs, and promoting climate-smart and inclusive value chains.

The new Youth, Jobs and Skills Marker System (YJSMS) was approved in 2024, and the pilot phase began in 2025. The marker system will help prioritise job creation for young people in ADF operations. ADF countries account for 13 of the 25 operations in the pilot phase.

Supporting private sector development

Africa's manufacturing sector is showing remarkable resilience amid global economic headwinds, offering a foundation for sustainable, commodity-driven growth. The Bank aims to catalyse private sector development by supporting job creation, business growth, and regional integration through strategic initiatives aligned with the continent's industrialisation goals.

Development context

The private sector is responsible for approximately 90% of jobs, generates 75% of investment, contributes more than 70% of output, and provides over 80% of government revenues across developing economies.[18] However, the private sector in many ADF countries is constrained by limited access to finance, weak infrastructure and challenging business environments. Despite global challenges, reduced investments, and tightening monetary policies, Africa's manufacturing sector has demonstrated resilience, with value-added rising to $79 billion in ADF countries from $74 billion in 2020. Through the African Commodity Strategy under Agenda 2063, the continent aims to follow an industrialisation path that prioritises value addition and addresses the continent's overreliance on raw exports.

18 Integrated Approach to Fostering Private Sector in ADF Countries (Deputies Report) – ADF-17 2nd Replenishment Meeting

Table 21: Level 1 – Supporting private sector development

Indicator	ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest	Baseline 2020	2024 or latest
● Value-added of the manufacturing sectors ($ billions)	74	79 (2023)	24	22 (2023)
● Africa's share of market value for key processed commodities (%)	9.6	10.3 (2023)	1.5	1.6 (2023)

● Improvement compared to the baseline

ADF's contribution to nurturing private sector development

The Bank is making steady progress towards job creation and enterprise development across the High 5s. ADF has supported the creation of 115 564 direct jobs and 449 224 indirect jobs. It has also supported 1 020 businesses with access to finance, the majority of which are owned or led by women. See also expected jobs from ADF-funded operations that were approved in 2024 (Box 10).

As part of its commitment to advancing innovative methodologies for evaluating the developmental impact of its operations, the Bank partnered with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to conduct an employment impact assessment in Rwanda for the ADF-financed *Regional Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project*, completed in 2024. The study highlights how strategic infrastructure investments can promote decent work, gender and youth inclusion, and support sustainable development (Box 11).

The ADF is supporting private sector development by helping to advance continent-wide integration under the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). Through the *AfCFTA Institutional Support Project Phase 1*, the Bank was instrumental in the launch and operationalisation of the AfCFTA Secretariat, a cornerstone institution supporting the largest market in Africa, encompassing over 1.3 billion people. Key achievements in this first phase included the facilitation of the successful launch of the AfCFTA in January 2021 and the provision of substantial financial support to the project, becoming the largest funding source in the first year and the second largest in the second year. The project also contributed to strengthening institutional capacity and supported negotiations. The project enabled the recruitment of experts, supported dispute resolution mechanisms and a strategic plan for long-term sustainability. The second phase of the ADF-supported project aims to help the AfCFTA Secretariat and African countries—particularly transition states—streamline and embed national and regional trade policy initiatives, advancing the continent's trade integration through effective AfCFTA implementation.

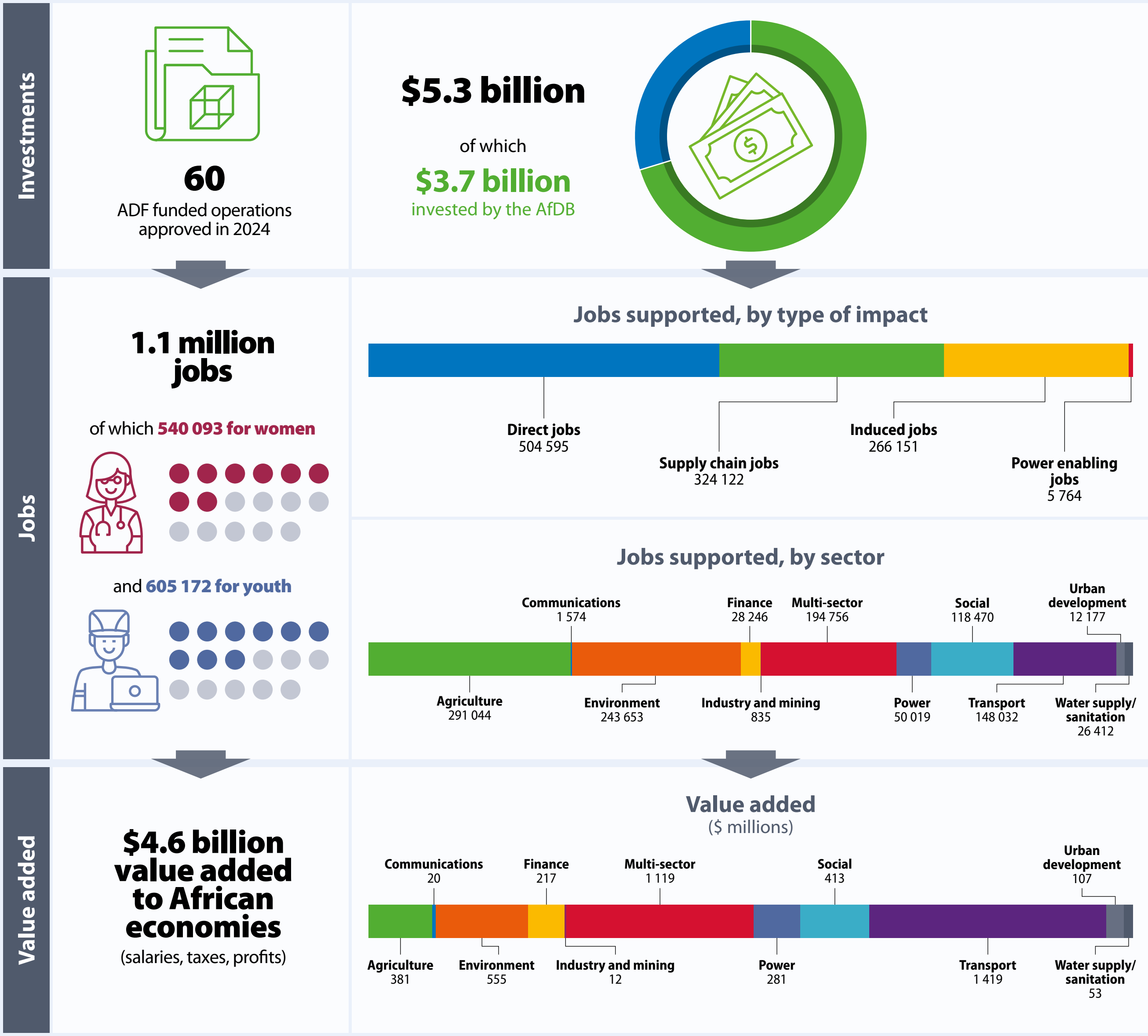
Another example of the ADF's commitment towards private sector development is the *Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks Support Project in Ethiopia*, which received $15.2 million from the ADF and $10.4 million from the EU-Africa Investment Platform. The project is transforming the agricultural sector by improving value chains and creating jobs. Key successes include the creation of 13 917 jobs, the establishment of four agro-industrial parks and 19 rural transformation centres, and connecting 3 892 farmers to value chains, increasing food production by 22%. The Bank also supported investments to provide water supplies to one of the parks and 14 company factories (eight of which are already operational). Over 80 Memoranda of Understanding have been signed, leading to $60 million of additional funding in the pipeline. The project aims to establish 200 000 jobs over the next five years, fostering rural transformation and contributing to economic growth.

Progress in delivering commitments on private sector development

Under the ADF-16 cycle, the Bank met, or is on track to meet, all of its commitments related to private sector development. It is

Box 10: 2024 ADF investments are expected to support 1.1 million jobs

Based on Project Appraisal Reports and Joint Impact Model (JIM) projections, the Bank estimated that 1.1 million jobs (of which 540 000 for women and 605 000 for young people) will be generated by 60 ADF-funded operations approved in 2024. The share of direct and indirect jobs expected amounts to 0.5 million and 0.6 million jobs, respectively. It is estimated that jobs created will contribute $4.6 billion to ADF-supported economies.

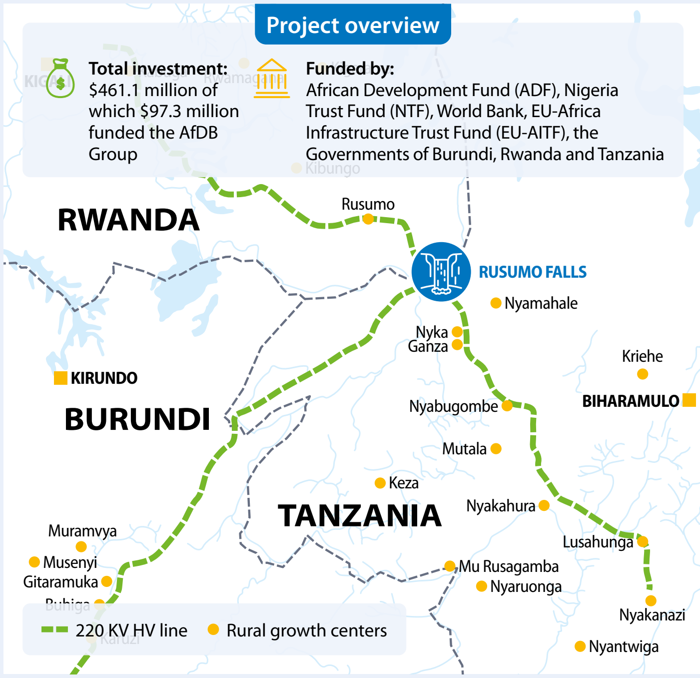


Box 11: Impact of the Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project on jobs in Rwanda

The *Regional Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project*, completed in 2024, is a transformative initiative aimed at integrating power generation and transmission to enable Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi to jointly harness the region's vast and diverse energy potential (see Section on Regional Integration).

In collaboration with the International Labour Organization, the Bank conducted an employment impact assessment focused on the construction phase of the plant and transmission infrastructure in Rwanda. The study found that 5 446 direct jobs were created during the construction of the transmission lines. In addition, the project supported approximately 17 500 indirect temporary jobs in sectors such as trade, agriculture, and construction. Over the long term, it is expected to generate around 5 700 permanent jobs, particularly in trade, electricity, and recreational and other service industries.

The Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project exemplifies how strategic infrastructure investments can promote decent work, gender and youth inclusion, and sustainable development—offering key insights for future initiatives.



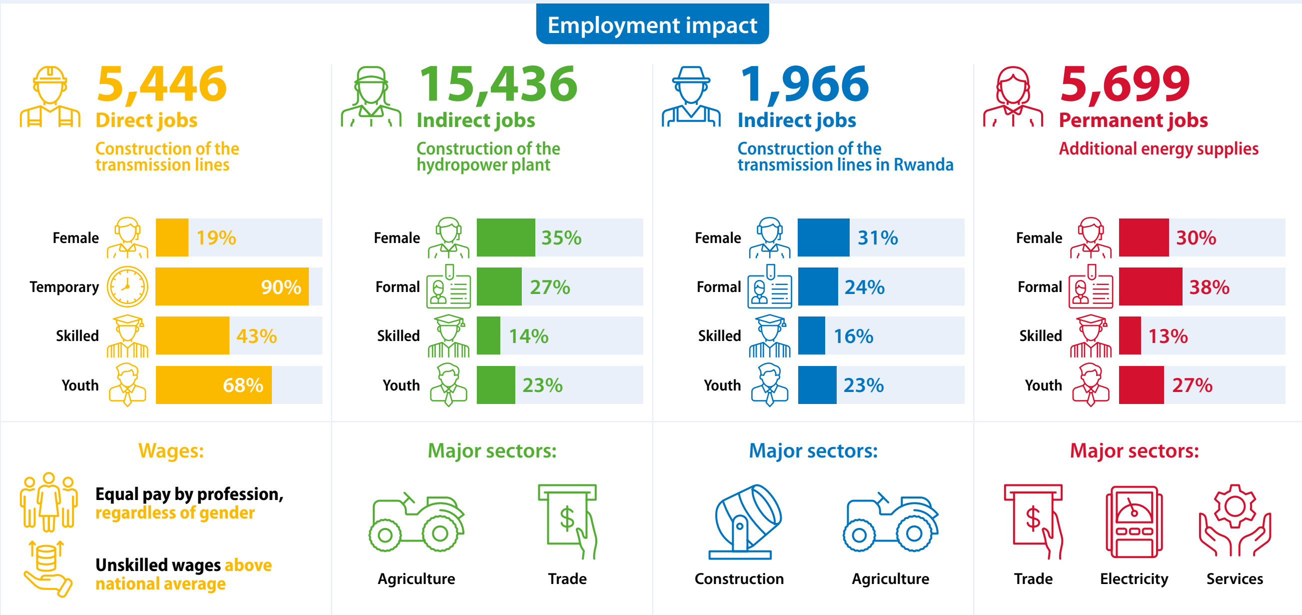


Table 22: Level 2 – Supporting private sector development (ADF contribution)

Indicator	ADF Contribution		
	Planned	Actual	Achievement rate
● Directs jobs created (number)	101 723	115 564	>100%
● — *Of which women*	33 909	29 575	87%
● Youths 15–35	49 340	56 519	>100%
● Indirect jobs supported (number)	529 705	449 224	85%
● — *Of which women*	257 315	217 767	85%
● Youths 15–35	276 780	234 437	85%
● Enterprises supported with access to finance (number)	830	1 020	>100%
● — *Led/owned by women*	425	557	>100%
○ — *Led/owned by youth*	-	-	

● Indicator reached 85% or more of the anticipated target ○ Data not available to measure progress

developing and operationalising guidelines for the Private Sector Credit Enhancement Facility.[19] So far, the Bank has completed simulations to determine capital allocations and has drafted the operational guidelines for review and clearance this year.

The Bank is supporting improvements in the business enabling environment in ADF countries, including strengthening public-private sector dialogues. The TSF includes private sector development as a thematic area in its calls-for-proposals and has allocated UA 82 million to related interventions, surpassing the UA 75 million ADF-16 target.

The Bank supported MSME programmes in 13 ADF countries, including eight transition states, focusing on entrepreneurship, skills development, and innovation, with an emphasis on women-led MSMEs and youth employment. The countries covered include Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Mozambique, Benin, the CAR, Sierra Leone, the DRC, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, South Sudan, and Djibouti. In Benin for example, the *Economic Governance and Private Sector Development Support Programme – Phase* II, primarily funded by ADF in 2024, is driving reforms to strengthen economic governance and accelerate private sector growth. By streamlining business registration and enhancing the investment climate, the programme aims to increase private investment as a share of GDP and make it easier to do business in the country. It also seeks to empower SMEs through improved access to finance and targeted training. To scale up private sector development, the Bank is preparing a strategic action plan focused on SME development.

19 The Private Sector Credit Enhancement Facility (PSF), launched by the African Development Fund (ADF) in 2015, is a mechanism to provide credit risk participation in the African Development Bank's private sector operations in low-income countries. By sharing in default risks and revenues, the PSF aims to stimulate private investment in Africa and facilitate the development of projects within the private sector.

Mining sustainably

In Zambia, students gain skills for sustainable mineral resource development.

Enhancing operational and institutional performance

In 2024, the Bank continued to strengthen its operational and institutional performance, mobilising resources to increase its development impact in ADF countries. In line with the global multilateral development bank reform agenda, the Bank has also improved its operational model to enhance impact by supporting larger, more integrated and transformative projects. All new ADF projects were appraised against cross-cutting priorities during project design, with 96% of new sovereign operations supporting gender equality outcomes. The Bank is committed to gender equality and inclusivity, taking steps towards supporting women to enter management positions in the organisation. Consistent with the innovative features of the new Results Management Framework, this report tracks, for the first time, the expected development results of operations approved during the ADF-16 Replenishment Cycle (2023–July 2025).

Improving quality and impact of ADF operations
The Bank's Independent Development Evaluation Department (IDEV) assessed the Bank Group's sovereign operations completed in 2024 as performing strongly on strategic relevance (97%), efficiency (81%), and sustainability (80%).

Like the Bank Group, the Fund's performance on effectiveness shows a mixed picture: for ADF, output performance was strong, with 86% of completed ADF-supported operations rated satisfactory or above, compared to 65% for outcomes. Weak evidence of achievement of project outcomes often contributed to these lower outcome ratings. For example, one COVID-19 response budget support project was rated unsatisfactory overall due to weak reporting mechanisms and insufficient evidence of broader development outcomes, including on health, social, and economic recovery objectives. These included improved pandemic response capacity, increased social protection spending, support for SMEs and the agricultural sector, and enhanced public accountability, among others.[20] Similarly, several legacy projects in the power and transport sectors delivered strong development outputs but were rated poorly on effectiveness due to insufficient evidence provided on outcomes delivered at completion. For instance, the Kenya-Tanzania Power Interconnection project successfully achieved its primary outputs, including a 400 kV high voltage Isinya-Namanga transmission line and new substations, which are instrumental in facilitating regional energy trade between Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania (see Box 3). However, the project was rated as highly unsatisfactory on effectiveness, as the power trade agreement between the two project countries was still under negotiation at the time of project completion. The context has since considerably changed ,as power trade agreements between Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya are fully operational since December 2024 and have yielded significant power trade volumes between the three countries, thus accelerating access to reliable and affordable electricity and generating large export revenues.

As a result of these shortcomings, only 67% of ADF-supported sovereign operations fully achieved their planned development results at completion – a decline from 72% in 2023. In contrast, social, water supply, sanitation, and agriculture projects showed stronger performance. WASH projects in particular reported an effectiveness score of 100%, a sharp increase from 44% across 2021–2023.

20 Liberia—Multi-country Covid-19 crisis response support programme

These challenges faced by legacy projects approved during previous replenishment cycles underscore the importance of strong project results planning and measurement tools, an area where significant investments have been made since 2021 under the Integrated Quality Assurance Plan. They also highlight the critical need for proactive implementation support and mid-course project reviews to enable timely restructuring or adjustment of intended results in response to evolving project contexts. Finally, the timing of project completion reports needs to be considered carefully to ensure that they fully capture development outcomes effectively delivered.

The Bank remains committed to continuous improvement, with the aim of raising effectiveness to at least 80% by 2028. In recent years, the Bank has taken decisive steps to enhance the capacity of project teams in designing stronger, more realistic results frameworks. These efforts have focused on developing credible indicators and achievable targets that align with project scope, while integrating monitoring tools that support rigorous outcome assessment at completion. By reinforcing these foundational elements, the Bank is driving greater accountability, learning, and performance across its operations.

As such, the Bank is launching consultations for its new Quality, Results and Learning Action Plan (2025–2028), aligned with TYS 2.0, the Results Management Framework, and ADF-17 priorities. Building on the successes of the Integrated Quality Assurance Plan (2019–2022), this initiative aims to sustain momentum and close persistent quality gaps across the project cycle, setting a bold course for operational transformation.

The Action Plan is anchored in three transformative shifts, which are sets of actions with common objectives that together create a step change in how the Bank Group delivers results. The first shift aims to strengthen technical quality and readiness, ensuring that operations are bankable, evidence-based and prepared to start without costly delays. The second shift will focus on accelerating delivery by equipping country systems and project implementation units with the capacity, tools, and agility needed to move rapidly from approval to results on the ground. The third shift will sharpen strategic portfolio rationalisation, to drive selectivity in project approvals—favouring fewer, larger, and more impactful operations. It will also concentrate resources on what works, addressing underperformance early, and systematically applying lessons from experience. Taken together, these shifts will consolidate the Bank Group's commitment to a continuous cycle of quality, delivery, and learning, positioning the institution to deliver faster, more reliable, and more impactful results for Regional Member Countries.

The Bank places great emphasis on integrating cross-cutting priorities across all sovereign operations. A total of 96% of ADF projects addressed gender equality outcomes, up substantially from 65% in 2023 and exceeding the target of 80%.

Recognising the challenging development landscape, the G20 has called for a shift in the operating model of multilateral development banks to focus on larger, integrated and transformative projects. In 2024, 29% of the ADF's lending volume went to multi-year investment programmes, up from 22% in 2023. The ADF is supporting more targeted, large-scale projects, with 37% of operations exceeding UA 50 million ($60.2 million), up from 29% in 2023. The Bank is also committed to investing in global and regional public goods, fostering cooperation across the continent, to address common challenges. The Bank is providing increased support to regional integration projects, with support to these initiatives rising to 41% from 33% of the ADF's total support, mainly the TSF. Overall, this demonstrates the Bank's commitment to scaling up transformative interventions in low-income and transition countries.

The ADF has experienced some challenges with boosting the efficiency of operations and compressing timelines between project inception and implementation. The average time from project conceptualisation to first disbursement for ADF operations has remained stagnant for ADF projects, at around 23 months. Nevertheless, this is shorter than the Bank average, which is 24 months, as well as the 2024 target of 25 months. Bank reporting found that 28% of ADF operations faced delays, down from 32% in 2023, but above the 2024 target of 25%. In ADF countries, this is sometimes due to rising fragility and conflict in regions and countries. The Bank is taking strategic steps within its own operations and with partners to address challenges in this area.

During the ADF-16 period, over 3 200 staff from project implementation units and senior government officials received targeted training in programme and project management,

Box 12: Cutting-edge sustainable development financing in Rwanda and Togo

The Bank provided $400 million in partial credit guarantees to support two landmark sustainable financing transactions in Rwanda and Togo.

- In Rwanda, the Bank provided a €200 million partial credit guarantee to help Rwanda raise funds from international commercial banks for green and social projects. This financing, aligned with Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation and Vision 2050, targets sectors such as renewable energy, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, affordable housing, and access to social services. It also supports Rwanda's Sustainable Finance Framework, promoting the country as a credible borrower in international markets.
- In Togo, the Bank provided a €200 million partial credit guarantee for Togo's first sustainable financing initiative. The funds will support projects in biodiversity preservation, climate change adaptation, clean energy access, education, and social inclusion. This initiative aligns with Togo's Sustainable Financing Framework, which prioritises environmentally friendly and socially responsible investments.

driving notable improvements. Sierra Leone, for instance, benefited from five portfolio enhancement initiatives and achieved 100% portfolio performance by the end of 2024. To build on this success, the Bank will expand Institutional Capacity and Fiduciary Clinics and Country Capacity Development Needs Assessments across ADF countries, building on work done in the CAR, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, and South Sudan, to enhance portfolio performance and resource absorption.

In all areas, the Bank is dedicated to enhancing its operational performance by strengthening knowledge solutions and fostering institutional capacity, guided by the Bank's Knowledge Management Strategy. Highlights from 2024 include the publication of the *African Economic Outlook* publication, which underscored the urgency of global financial system reform. This was reinforced by *Country Focus Reports* and policy dialogue events—primarily in ADF countries—highlighting strategies to mobilise private sector and natural capital finance for Africa's transformation. The Bank also enhanced statistical capacity across Regional Member Countries, notably supporting 31 ADF countries through the Infrastructure Knowledge Programme.

Improving institutional performance and scaling up financial capacity

The Bank is committed to improving its institutional model through internal reforms and practices to improve effectiveness and long-term financial sustainability. In 2024, the Bank mobilised UA 2 289 million (equivalent to $2 985 million) for sovereign and non-sovereign operations. $333 million came from global climate funds, demonstrating the Bank's commitment to scaling up climate finance. The Bank has embraced new, diverse instruments to scale up financing capacity, including the use of sustainable hybrid capital, ADF market borrowing, and risk transfer mechanisms. The Bank has also scaled up its capacity for hosting risk-sharing transactions, including $400 million in partial credit guarantees to Rwanda and Togo (Box 12).

The Bank also heavily invests in its people, with recent years showing improvements in staff engagement. Between 2019 and 2023, the Bank progressed from the 80th to 90th percentile in terms of staff engagement, placing it among the top 10% of high-performing organisations. The Bank also made progress in managerial effectiveness, with its score on the Managerial Effectiveness Index increasing to the 77th percentile in 2023 from the 50th percentile in 2019. This demonstrates the Bank's strong focus on fostering a positive organisational culture.

The Bank's commitment to gender equality is reflected in its operations. In 2024, women represented 33% of professional staff, an increase of 1% from the previous year. The percentage of women in management roles grew to 29% in 2024, up from 27% in 2023. Furthermore, the Bank launched a four-month Women's Journey Leadership Development Programme, which equipped 40 high-performing female employees to accelerate their progression into leadership roles. The Bank remains dedicated to cultivating a diverse and inclusive workforce and recognises that sustained, targeted action is necessary.

Transforming Africa

ADF powers Africa's transformation through bold, inclusive investments.

Looking forward

As the ADF-16 cycle concludes, ADF countries find themselves at a crossroads. They have demonstrated remarkable resilience in an increasingly challenging environment, registering important, albeit uneven, gains towards their development goals. Yet, global turbulence, persistent conflict and fragility, climate impacts, and tightening development finance threaten to undermine and further slow down this progress.

The ADF-17 Strategic Framework offers a blueprint for enhanced resilience and accelerated transformation. It sets out a bold agenda for accelerating progress on key deficits, such as energy access, agricultural productivity and job creation, especially for women and young people.

The ADF's ambition is to scale up transformational investments in these areas, helping to close Africa's infrastructure and skills gaps, while driving innovation in climate adaptation, digital solutions, and financial mobilisation. Securing a significant ADF-17 replenishment is imperative if the Fund is to offer the concessional finance needed to help countries unlock private capital, deepen domestic resource mobilisation, and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

To support this, the Bank is committed to improving its own operational performance, strengthening its knowledge partnerships, and leveraging new financing instruments to crowd in additional resources. Success in the next cycle will be measured by the ADF's capacity for catalytic, high-impact investments with a strong focus on climate-resilient infrastructure, gender and youth empowerment, and strategic partnerships for transformative results at scale.

Over the next year, finance will be Africa's most pressing challenge. High indebtedness and constrained access to international financial markets will exacerbate a potentially painful transition away from international aid, threatening progress. The ADF remains at the centre of Africa's development financing architecture. Securing a robust replenishment of the ADF is now more important than ever.

Annexes

Annex 1: Bank Group's 2024 results on enhancing operational and institutional performance

(Extracted from the 2025 ADER Edition)

Enhancing operational performance (Level 3)

Indicator	AFRICA				ADF COUNTRIES		TRANSITION STATES	
	Baseline 2023	Actual 2024	Target 2024	Target 2028	Baseline 2023	Actual 2024	Baseline 2023	Actual 2024
IMPROVE QUALITY OF OPERATIONS								
● Operations achieving planned development results (%)								
— *For sovereign operation*	71	68	75	80	72	67[1]	70	44
— *For non-sovereign operations*[2] (not available)	78	-	78	80	-	-	-	-
● Sovereign operations addressing gender equality outcomes[3] (%)	58	95	62	80	65	96	58	97
DELIVER RESULTS AT SCALE								
● Share of multi-year investment programmes in total lending (%)	20	37	21	25	22	29	17	10
● Share of lending for regional integration	29	35	29	30	33	41	42	46
● Share of sovereign operations above UA 50 million (%)	44	43	47	60	29	37	9	16
ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION								
● Time from concept note to first disbursement (months) (SOs)[4]	27	24	25	20	23	23	22	21
● Operations facing challenges (%)	30	31	25	25	32	28	34	36
ENHANCE IMPACT WITH KNOWLEDGE								
● Stakeholder's satisfaction with knowledge generated by the Bank to support country, regional or sectoral strategies/action plans (%)	-	-		Monitored	-	-	-	-
● Stakeholder's satisfaction with knowledge generated by the Bank to support development dialogues (%)	-	-		Monitored	-	-	-	-

● Indicator reached 90% or more of the 2024 target ● Indicator achieved between 80% and 90% of the 2024 target, and indicators that reached 90% or more of the 2024 target but regressed compared to the baseline ● Indicator achieved below 80% of the 2024 target ● Indicators are monitored without assessment against specific targets

1 The methodology used to calculate this data is based on ADF-financed operations.

2 The limited number of completion reports (XSRs) poses challenges to validating and reliably assessing the Bank's performance in achieving development outcomes for non-sovereign operations.

3 This is the share of new sovereign operations categorised GEN 1 and GEN 2 by the GMS.

4 This indicator has been adjusted to focus on SOs only excluding PBOs to better address operational efficiency. As such the 2023 Baseline has been revised from 25 to 26 months.

Improving institutional performance and scaling up financing capacity (Level 4)

Indicator	Baseline 2023	Actual 2024	Target 2024	Target 2028
BUILD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS				
● Active resources mobilised for sovereign and non-sovereign operations (UA million)	2 851	2 289	Monitored	
● Private capital mobilisation (UA million)	-	-	Monitored	
● Climate finance mobilised from external resources ($ million)	300	333	Monitored	
SCALE UP FINANCING CAPACITY				
● Financing capacity from financial innovations ($million)	2 200	2 670	Monitored	
● Share of guarantee instruments (% of Bank approvals) — *Of which sovereign operation and non-sovereign operations*	26%	10%	Monitored	
SAFEGUARD FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY				
● Risk Capital Utilisation Rate (%)	54.3	44.8	Monitored	
● Cost-to Loan Income Ratio (%)	61	64	Monitored	
INVEST IN PEOPLE				
● Employee engagement index (low = 0 / high = 100)	80 (2019)	90 (2023)	90	90
● Managerial effectiveness index (low = 0 / high = 100)	50 (2019)	77 (2023)	80	80
● Share of women in professional (%)	32	33	33	40
● Share of women in managerial positions (%)	27	29	30	35

● Indicator reached 90% or more of the 2024 target ● Indicator achieved between 80% and 90% of the 2024 target, and indicators that reached 90% or more of the 2024 target but regressed compared to the baseline ● Indicator achieved below 80% of the 2024 target ● Indicators are monitored without assessment against specific targets

Annex 2: Expected results of projects approved under ADF-16 (2023-July 2025)

In addition to reporting on results achieved from ADF-supported operations completed in 2024, the ADF Delivery and Results Report monitors and reports on the expected results from operations approved during the ADF-16 Replenishment Cycle (2023–2025) to assess whether the Fund's newly approved investments align with the Ten-Year Strategy and ADF's strategic and operational priorities.

Indicator	AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND			
	EXPECTED RESULTS FROM ADF-16 APPROVALS			
	2023 APPROVALS	2024 APPROVALS	Jan-July 2025 APPROVALS	Total Expected 2023-2025 APPROVALS
ENERGY ACCESS				
People provided with access to electricity (number)	721 050	5 020	-	726 070
— Of which women	361 719	2 518	-	364 237
Power capacity installed (MW)	80	37	-	117
— Of which from renewable energy	80	37	-	117
Cross-border and national transmission lines constructed (km)	1 655	299	43	1 997
Households/people provided with clean cooking access (number)	-	4 410	374 990	379 400
— Of which women	-	2 646	189 080	191 726
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY, AGRIPRODUCT PROCESSING AND FOOD SECURITY				
Agribusinesses supported (number)	-	27 239	938	28 177
— Led/owned by women	-	11 076	551	11 627
Farmers using improved and climate-resilient technologies and inputs (number)	454 650	3 704 110	421 240	4 580 000
— Of which women	154 745	1 933 458	128 086	2 216 289
Food-secure population (number)	6 519 735	12 109 515	2 095 000	20 724 250
— Of which women	3 237 219	6 069 298	1 030 398	10 336 915
REGIONAL INTEGRATION				
Cross-border and national roads constructed or rehabilitated (km)	316	1 344	-	1 659
Cross-border and national transmission lines constructed (km)	1 655	299	43	1 997
People with improved access to transport (number)	1 973 043	15 044 134	-	17 017 177
— Of which women	969 863	7 659 984	-	8 629 847
HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION				
People with access to better health services (number)	194 721	64 443	843 020	1 102 184
— Of which women	82 220	25 457	421 920	529 596
People with new or improved access to water (number)	1 532 554	35 816	1 147 396	2 715 766
— Of which women	774 421	17 908	578 120	1 370 449
People with new or improved access to sanitation (number)	658 900	382 000	11 125	1 052 025
— Of which women	716 082	191 000	5 563	912 645

Indicator	AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND			
	EXPECTED RESULTS FROM ADF-16 APPROVALS			
	2023 APPROVALS	2024 APPROVALS	Jan-July 2025 APPROVALS	Total Expected 2023-2025 APPROVALS
DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE				
People with improved access to basic ICT services (number)	-	-	-	-
RESILIENCE ENHANCED				
People provided with access to electricity in transition states (number)	121 050	-	-	121 050
— *Of which women*	60 779	-	-	60 779
Farmers using improved and climate-resilient technologies and inputs in transition states (number)	133 700	1 395 810	382 240	1 911 750
— *Of which women*	45 660	672 238	109 211	827 109
Enterprises supported with access to finance in transition states (number)	17 043	7 860	4 915	29 818
— *Led/owned by women*	2 354	3 509	2 460	8 323
SUPPORTING PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT (AND EMPOWERED WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)				
Directs jobs created (number)	153 477	504 595	67 740	725 812
— *Of which women*	67 177	259 485	46 425	373 087
Youths 15–35	77 032	302 018	41 605	420 654
Indirect jobs supported (number)	534 198	596 037	72 454	1 202 688
— *Of which women*	248 016	280 608	25 102	553 726
Youths 15–35	271 513	303 154	35 430	610 098
Enterprises supported with access to finance (number)	6 648	19 221	3 750	29 619
— *Led/owned by women*	2 295	7 938	2 000	12 232

Annex 3: Progress in delivering on ADF-16 commitments

The table below provides the implementation status of the policy commitments by the MTR and end-of-cycle (EOC). The actions are listed under the overarching ADF-16 strategic pillars. A simple traffic light system indicates the status of implementation: a blue light (🔵) indicates the commitment has been met, and a green light (🟢) indicates that the milestone is on track and to be delivered by year-end 2025.

No		Committments	Success indicators	Due date	Implementation update
PILLAR I: SUSTAINABLE, CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE					
ENERGY SECTOR					
1	🟢	Support the Just Energy Transition in ADF countries through Technical Assistance, and development of inclusive, gender-responsive Transitions Plans	Develop 5 Plans by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**Development of 2 JET-P Plans supported: Senegal** Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P) investment plan SEFA-financed Africa Energy Transition Catalyst (AETC). The Investment Plan has been finalized and validated for the piloting committee. **Uganda** Integrated Resource Plan via SEFA.
	🟢		Develop 10 Plans by End-of-cycle.	EOC	**Development of 11 National Energy Compacts:** The National Energy Compacts (NEC) serve as blueprints with country-specific targets and timelines for implementation of critical reforms that will drive energy access and the energy transition. The Bank is working with governments of Mission 300 countries, to include energy transition under the NEC. The ADF-16 counties which will have a NEC by end of 2025 are : **Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe**
2.1	🔵	Support the increase of sustainable on-grid and off-grid electricity access	4 projects approved by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**5 Projects approved and 5 in the 2025 lending program:** (i) **Gambia** Electricity System Rehabilitation and Expansion, (ii) **Mali-Mauritania** power interconnection, (iii) **Desert To Power** Regional Technical Assistance Project, (iv) **South Sudan - Uganda** Power Interconnection Project, (v) Urban Distribution Rehabilitation and Transmission Expansion project in **Lesotho** (PAR approved), (vi) Repair and Expansion of Bosaso Power Grid in **Somalia** (Before PCN), (vii) Network improvement and green minigrid project in **Burkina Faso** (Before PCN), (viii) Namaacha - Boane transmission line and associated infrastructure (CAW) in **Mozambique**, (ix) Energy Sector Sector Support Project Phase II in Chad (PCN Approved), (x) Project boucle de Bamako in **Mali** (PCN approved).
	🟢		10 projects approved by End-of-cycle.	EOC	
2.2	🔵	Support the increase of renewable energy generation capacity	Approved projects generating 200 MW by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**Approximately 445.6 MW approved or enabled through ADF-16 financing:** **50 MW** Solar PV plant from the DtP 225 KV Mali-Mauritania power interconnection. Further **50 MW** under preparation with ADF-16 resources on the same project. **120 MW** Namaacha wind project– Financing of the Namaacha -Boane Transmission line and associated infrastructure through CAW mitigation funds. 12 MW Tesseney Kerekebet and Barentufor green mini-grid project approved under TSF Pillar 1 in December 2024. **42 MW** Sokode Solar PV Project in approved on 30 April 2025. An additional **171.6 MW** is programmed for approval through ADF financing: **164 MW** to be generated by the Rehabilitation of Kapichira-Nkula Project in **Malawi** (PCN Approved) **4.6 MW** generated by the PASET II Energy Sector Sector Support Project Phase II in **Chad 3 MW** generated by the Repair & Expansion of Bosaso Power Grid and Strengthening Energy Sector institutions Project in **Somalia** (PCN Approved)
	🟢		Approved projects generating 500 MW by End-of-cycle.	EOC	

No		Committments	Success indicators	Due date	Implementation update
2.3		Support energy efficiency to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emission	2 projects approved by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**3 Projects approved and 3 in the 2025 lending program:** (i) **Eastern Ethiopia** Electricity Grid Reinforcement Project (ii) **The Gambia** Electricity System Rehabilitation and Expansion Project (iii) **Senegal's** Programme to Promote Efficient Lighting Lamps (iv) Urban Distribution Rehabilitation and Transmission Expansion project in **Lesotho** (PAR approved) , (v) Repair and Expansion of Bosaso Power Grid in **Somalia** (PCN Approved), and (vi) Network Improvement and Green Minigrid project in **Burkina Faso**.
			5 projects approved by End-of-cycle	EOC	
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY					
3		Improve ADF's countries food self-sufficiency	Invest in 2 regional projects by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**Six (6) regional projects were approved; reinforcing its commitment to advancing sustainable agricultural development, food security, and resilience across Africa. These projects, with a total funding of UA 313 210 000, include:** (i) Enabling Environments for Sustainable Regional Agriculture Extension (ENSURE), approved on Dec 12, 2023 for UA 9 500 000. (ii) Strengthening Food Safety Standards and Nutrition in Africa (SFNA), approved on Nov 30, 2023, for UA 6 430 000. (iii) Programme to Strengthen Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (Gambia & Chad), approved on July 14, 2024, for UA 50 000 000. (iv) Multinational - Burundi-Rwanda Integrated Development Project (BRIDEP), approved in Oct 4, 2024, for UA 170 280 000. (v) Multinational - Regional Resilient Rice Value Chains Development Project in West Africa (REWARD) (Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, AfricaRice, and ECOWAS Commission), approved on Nov 30, 2024, for UA 70 000 000. (vi) Multinational - Technical Support Project for the Restoration of the Ecological and Economic Functions of the Lake Chad Basin (PARFEBALT), approved in Nov 22, 2024, for UA 7 000 000.
			Invest in 4 regional projects by End-of-cycle	EOC	
WATER AND SANITATION					
4.1		Improve sustainable, inclusive, and pro-poor access to climate-resilient water and sanitation services for strengthened water security	Investment projects in 6 countries by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**24 investment operations including 1 ADF Regional Enveloppe funded Multinational operation (DRC/CAR) and 5 ADF PPFs approved:** - Rwanda, Malawi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burundi, Mozambique, Chad, Senegal, Togo, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe etc.
			Investment projects in 9 countries by End-of-cycle	EOC	
4.2		Knowledge-based services enhanced advisory and water sector programming	12 new Country Water Sector profiles by End-of-cycle	EOC only	**21 New Country Water Security Profiles/diagnostics** were prepared in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, DRC, Eswatini, Gabon, Kenya, Comoros, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Seychelles, Zambia, Sao Tome & Principe, Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar Uganda, Zimbabwe. In addition 2 Africa Wide Market analysis and sector Analytical works were conducted on WatverEnergy-Food Security Nexus Investment and Suatainable transformation of water and sanitation utilities with the view of accelerating delivery and and scaling up investment.
HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE					
5		Increase access to resilient quality health services investing in quality national health infrastructure projects, including mother-child health	Invest in 3 projects by Mid-Term-Review.	MTR	**A total of 17 operations (totaling USD 148.72 million), spread across 14 ADF countries, have been approved,** all involving rehabilitation and/or construction of health infrastructure. These are; (1) UA 56 million Tanzania East Africa's Center of Excellence in skills and tertiary education in Biomedical Science (Phase 2); (2) UA 15 million South Sudan Emergency Response to the Sudan Refugee Crisis in Mabani County, (3) the UA 0.3 million Emergency support to Comoros' floods and the cholera epidemic, (4) The UA 29.78 million Burkina Faso multisectoral project to support skills development for resilience in (PMACR-BF) that aims to enhance access to healthcare; (5) UA 5 million in The GAMBIA Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project that will enhance access to health, especially primary health; (6) the UA 10.1 million in Central African Republic that will enhance access to health by supporting the construction and equipment of 6 primary health facilities; (7) the UA 13.34 million Multinational –Emergency Project to Support the Stabilization and Recovery of Refugees and Host Communities in the Lake Chad, which seeks to construct and/or rehabilitate 15 health centers; (8) UA 13.5 million additional financing for UGANDA - East Africa's Centres Of Excellence For Skills And Tertiary Education in Biomedical Sciences; (9) the UA 5.7 million ECOWAS Quality Health Infrastructure for tackling Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.
			Invest in 5 projects by End-of-cycle	EOC	

No		Committments	Success indicators	Due date	Implementation update
REGIONAL INTEGRATION					
6		Allocate resources from the RO for operations in Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and Horn of Africa regions	At least 15% of resources by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**As at end of June 2025, 32% of resources from the RO were allocated for operations in Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and Horn of Africa regions,** exceeding the ADF-16 end-of-cycle target of 30%.
			At least 30% of resources by End-of-cycle.	EOC	
7		Allocate resources to PIDA [Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa] related operations (transport, energy, water, or ICT)	Allocate resources to at least 3 projects by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**As at end of June 2025, 8 PIDA-aligned operations** across transport, energy, water, and ICT sectors were approved, surpassing the target of 6 projects
			Allocate resources to at least 6 projects by End-of-cycle.	EOC	
PILLAR II: GOVERNANCE, CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUSTAINABLE DEBT MANAGEMENT					
CAPACITY BUILDING GOVERNANCE					
8		Country Strategy Papers are informed by country diagnostic notes covering governance and capacity development issues	At least 18 ADF Country Strategy Papers by End-of-cycle.	EOC only	12 of which 11 CSPs and 1 RISP have been approved.
9		Strengthen the ability of RMCs to implement policies that promote macro-economic stability and ensure the effective, accountable, and transparent management of public finances.	Invest in projects in 6 countries by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**17 ADF countries supported: Benin** (PBO), **Central African Republic** (PBO & ISP), **Comoros** (PBO& ISP), **Djibouti** (ISP), **Gambia** (PBO), **Ghana** (PBO), **Guinea-Bissau** (PBO), **Kenya** (PBO), **Madagascar** (PBO), **Mauritania** (ISP), **Mozambique** (PBO), **Sao Tome and Principe** (PBO & ISP), **Somalia** (ISP), **South Sudan** (ISP), **Togo** (PBO), **Tanzania** (PBO), **Zimbabwe** (ISP).MTR target was achieved by December 2023 and 170% EOC target achieved by December 2024.
			Invest in projects in 10 countries by End-of-cycle.	EOC	
GOVERNANCE					
10		Strengthen ADF countries' ability to mobilize domestic resources aiming at increasing the tax-GDP ratio	Increase Tax-GDP ratio by 10 %, by End-of-cycle.	EOC only	**13 ADF countries supported: Central African Republic** (PBO & ISP), **Comoros** (PBO), **Gambia** (PBO), **Ghana** (PBO), **Guinea-Bissau** (PBO), **Liberia** (ISP), **Madagascar** (PBO), **Mozambique** (PBO & ISP), **Sao Tome and Principe** (PBO & ISP), **Somalia** (ISP), **South Sudan** (ISP), **Tanzania** (PBO), **Togo** (PBO). According to projections, Tax to GDP ratios across these countries are expected to increase by an average of 19% from 2022 to 2025. First reporting on this target will be included when tax data for 2023 become available.
11		Scale up support for reforms to combat corruption and illicit financial flows, assisting countries in designing and implementing comprehensive risk-based approaches and mitigation plans	Assist 7 countries by End-of-cycle.	EOC only	**8 ADF countries supported: Central African Republic** (ISP), **Comoros** (PBO), **Liberia** (ISP), **Madagascar** (PBO), **Mozambique** (PBO), **Sao Tome and Principe** (PBO), **South Sudan** (ISP) and **Somalia** (ISP). 100% target achieved.
DEBT MANAGEMENT					
12		Strengthen capacity of RMCs to manage debt productively and transparently through use of Program Based Operations [PBOs] or Institutional Support Projects (ISPs)	Support 6 RMCs by Mid-Term-Review.	MTR	**22 ADF countries supported (8 PBOs and 9 ISPs)** including through a TSF III institutional support project supporting all 19 Transition States. 100% achieved. Target was achieved by December 2023
			Support 10 RMCs by End-of-cycle.	EOC	
13		Support ADF countries enhance debt management capacity and formulate prudential borrowing policies through technical assistance and policy advice.	Support 7 ADF countries by End-of-cycle.	EOC only	**8 ADF countries (Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Mozambique, Mauritania, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Sao Tome et Principe) are benefitting from Institutional support** projects geared towards building capacity for debt management. A multi-country TSF III TA project is also under implementation benefitting 19 Transition states

No		Committments	Success indicators	Due date	Implementation update
14	●	Monitor the implementation of the Bank's new sustainable borrowing policy in ADF countries while ensuring that projects complement the Agreed Policy Action [APAs] discussed with RMCs	6 projects complement the Agreed Policy Action [APAs]	EOC only	**6 Pilot countries to date have drafted Agreed Policy Actions** (total 19 APAs), these APAs are included in the PBOs for Comoros, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Mozambique and Sao Tome et Principe. SPB implementation Guidelines were approved by OpsCom in October 2024. **PRST approved the guidelines on 16 March 2025**
INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS					
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ABUSE AND HARASSMENT (SEAH)					
15	●	In ADF operations operationalize the Bank's directive on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment [SHEA] in the workplace as well as in projects funded by the Bank.	Report progress at Mid-Term-Review	MTR only	Ongoing process
LENSES					
CLIMATE CHANGE					
16	●	Assist ADF countries in developing and implementing their country climate plans, including the NDCs, NAPs and or LTSs aligned to the Paris Agreement	7 countries by Mid-Term-Review.	MTR	**Two countries (Liberia and Lesotho)** supported to design Long-Term Low-Emission & Climate-Resilient Development Visions (LTVs); Uganda to conduct stock take of its Updated NDC to inform the design of its Third NDC; Mozambique to update its national climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy, complete with a resource-mobilization strategy and action plan; Burkina Faso to develop its NDC Investment Plan; and two countries (Ethiopia and Zambia) supported with preparing funding proposals to mobilize resources for implementation of their NDCs. **Four countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia)** supported for NDC implementation. **Proposals submitted to the CAW Technical Assistance (TA) sub-window to support Zimbabwe (NAP), Senegal & Ghana (LTS), Mali, Djibouti, CAR, Gambia (3rd NDCs).**
	●		15 countries by End-of-cycle.	EOC	
17	●	Align all ADF-16 operations with the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degrees target and are fully aligned with the Paris Alignment building blocks	1-3 building blocks by Mid-Term-Review.	MTR	**All projects** are Paris Aligned with Building Blocks (BB) 1 on Mitigation, BB2 on Adaptation and BB3 on Climate Finance.
	●		All six building blocks by the End-of-cycle.	EOC	Building Blocks (BB) 1 on Mitigation, BB2 on Adaptation, BB3 on Climate Finance, and BB4 on Country engagement and Policy support, are considered fully aligned, while for Building Blocks 5 on Reporting & BB6 on Internal Activities, progress is ongoing towards full alignment. Additional resources needed, particularly to support internal alignment activities and Bankwide training.
18	●	Allocated ADF core annual investments (excluding CAW) to climate finance.	40% of Annual Investment, out of which < 50% is adaptation finance.	EOC only	**49% of project approvals was allocated as climate finance – 56% for adaptation, 44% for mitigation (Bank Group)** **56% of ADF approvals was allocated as climate finance - 86% for adaptation, 14% for mitigation (ADF)**
19	●	Establish indicators for new projects on biodiversity conservation, restoration, and to land degradation neutrality co-benefits	All relevant new projects by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**New climate change indicators have been developed that capture biodiversity in collaboration with ECNR.** These are also captured in the Monitoring, Evaluation, Results, and Learning System (MERLS)
	●		Fully operationalize indicators by End-of-cycle.	EOC	
20	●	Roll-out projects for increasing access to clean cooking solutions including through collaboration with partners	1 project by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**2 clean cooking projects** were prioritized for funding under the adaptation call for proposals and have been approved in 2025 covering 2 countries: • Uganda Biogas and Electric Cooking Project (UBEP) for UA 6.41 m approved in April 2025 • Kenya eCooking Market Development Project (KEMDP) - as a standalone project, not as an addendum - for UA 3.21 million targeting board approval by November 2025. An additional **four projects** covering four countries have been prioritized under the Mitigation call. Details will be provided in the next report once the Mitigation Prioritization Report has been internally cleared.
	●		3 projects by End-of-cycle..	EOC	

No		Committments	Success indicators	Due date	Implementation update
21	●	Use climate-informed designs with clear climate-related results indicators in all ADF operations	100% of ADF operations by End-of-cycle.	EOC only	Currently 99% of ADF projects are based on climate-informed design
FRAGILITY					
22	●	Update TSF operational guidelines for operationalising the revised eligibility and programmatic approach.	End of Q2, 2023.	MTR only	**The TSF Operational Guidelines have been revised and approved by the Boards of Directors in June 2023 and published on the Bank's website.**
23	●	Promote policy dialogue and mainstream fragility and resilience considerations in national sector strategies and development plans in partnership with humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding partners.	4 joint fragility-related activities by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**By Q2 2024, the Bank, through RDTS, signed three MoUs to advance its fragility and peace agenda: i) International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); ii) Interpeace; and iii) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).** Additionally, the Bank completed the following five activities in 2023: **1.** Conducted a joint fragility assessment with UN agencies for the Central African Republic to facilitate policy dialogue on fragility issues. **2.** Jointly organised event with the IFC in the DRC to address operational challenges and explore opportunities to strengthen the resilience of the DRC's agribusiness sector. **3.** Co-organised a strategic partnership event with SADC and UNHCR to promote regional cooperation on forced displacement, fragility, and climate resilience among SADC Member States. **4.** Expedited a joint programming and co-financing project with UNDP to support the stabilisation and recovery of refugees and host communities in the Central African Republic and Chad in response to the impact of the Sudan armed conflict. **5.** Co-chaired the Central African Republic Solution Support Platform (CAR-SSP) with UNHCR, aiming to provide sustainable and peace-transformative solutions for the forcibly displaced populations in the Central African Republic, supported by a core group of donors.
	●		8 joint fragility-related activities by End-of-cycle.	EOC	
24	●	Allocate resources from the TSF programmatic approach for transition states (i.e., countries eligible for TSF upfront allocations or Pillar III)	50% of resources by End-of-cycle	EOC only	**Out of the UA 365 million allocated from the TSF Prevention Envelope, 79% went to 16 transition states.** Additionally, 88% of resources allocated from the TSF Crisis Response Envelope were directed to 4 transition states.
CROSS CUTTING					
PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT					
25	●	Develop and operationalize guidelines for the new funded risk participation and programmatic approach instruments of the Private Sector Credit Enhancement Facility PSF	End-of-2023	MTR only	The draft Operational Guidelines have been peer reviewed by key Bank departments and will be submitted to the IRCC for clearance in October-November 2025 as we are about to review membership of the IRCC and work on associated procurement activities. The review of the Master Risk Participation Agreement is ongoing to incorporate the new instruments. A legal counsel will be commissioned with the assistance of PGCL to elaborate an agreement reflecting the changes. **Target submission of Operational Guidelines to ADF Board is by end of Q4 2025.**
26	●	Implement MSME support programs prioritizing Women-led MSMEs and Youth employment	In at least 5 countries including minimum of 3 Transition States by end-of-cycle.	EOC only	**Pillar III and the TSF prevention envelope supported MSME programmes in thirteen (13) ADF countries, including eight (8) transition states,** focusing on entrepreneurship, skills development, and innovation, with emphasis on women-led MSMEs and youth employment. These countries are Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Mozambique, Benin, the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, South Sudan, and Djibouti.
27	●	Improve the PSD enabling environment in ADF countries to strengthen public private sector dialogue and private-sector investors and companies	Through upstream sovereign investments and TA programs.	EOC only	**The TSF maintained private sector development as a thematic area in all its call-for-proposals, enabling the allocation of UA 82 million (UA 43 million form Pillar I and UA 39 million from Pillar III)** to private sector development interventions—**surpassing the UA 75 million target set under ADF-16.** Several other projects funded through the calls-for-proposals have strong private sector development components.
PROJECT PREPARATION FACILITY					
28	●	Increase ADF-16 utilization rate	30% utilization rate from the UA 75 million allocation for ADF-16.	EOC only	**As at end-June 2025, a total of 18 proposals have been approved so far for a total value of UA 37 370 692 equivalent to 50% utilization of PPF resources** (exceeding the target of 30% set for utilization by end of ADF-16).

No		Committments	Success indicators	Due date	Implementation update
GENDER AND YOUTH					
29.1	●	Improve the monitoring and evaluation system to generate gender-disaggregated data and reporting on gender results	Support 4 National Statistics Offices results by Mid-Term-Review.	MTR	**4 NSOs (Burundi, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe), through the CB-GenSMS project approved in 2021.** Work in these countries is ongoing and the project is expected to complete by end December 2025. Resources have been mobilized to build the capacity of 26 NSOs through collaboration with AFAWA/We-Fi (for Ghana, Tanzania, Sierra l Leone) and ECST (for all 23 COMESA countries)
	●		Support 10 National Statistics Offices results by End-of-cycle	EOC	
29.2	●	Ensure gender diagnostic analysis is reflected in Country Strategy Papers of ADF countries.	100% of CSPs by End-of-cycle.	EOC only	A gender diagnostic analysis was included in **all Country Diagnostic Notes for the 33 CSPs approved in 2023, 2024 and 2025**
30.1	●	Ensure that public operations have direct outcomes that benefit women and girls (categories 1 or 2 of the Gender Marker System).	80% of public operations by End-of-cycle	EOC only	**As at end of May 2025, 100% of Sovereign Operations approved were categorized as GEN I & II**
30.2	●	Ensure that private sector operations are gender marked	50% by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**As at end of May 2025, 100% of the private sector operations approved** were categorized by the Gender Marker System
	●		100% by End-of-cycle	EOC	
31	●	Integrate skills development for green jobs and/or climate adaptation for youth	12 Agriculture, Water, Energy and Transport projects at Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**A total of 20 operations (totalling USD 646.53 million/UA 853.43million), across 18 countries, approved by the Board, integrate skills development for green jobs or climate adaptation for youth.** These include: (1) Cameroon - Building Capacities And Skills For Employability And Entrepreneurship in the far North Region of Cameroon (CAP2E) - UA 110.69 million approved in May 2025; (2) Cote d'Ivoire - Project to support youth, skills entrepreneurship and employment (PAC2E) - UA 115 million approved in December 2024; (3) Zimbabwe Skills For Youth and Women Employment and Productivity Through Private Sector Engagement (SYWEPPE) - UA 2.7 million approved in September 2024; (4) the Burkina Faso Multisectoral skills development - UA 29.78 million approved in July 2024; (5) Sierra Leone Job Creation For Youth And Women In Climate Smart Agriculture Value Chains And Waste Management (WOKDONCAM) - UA 15 million approved in May 2024; (6) Ethiopia Agri SME development project - UA 32.23 million approved in May 2024; (7) DRC: Governance and Skills Development Support Project in Support of the Agricultural Transformation Program (PAGDC-PTA)- UA 90 million, approved in February 2024; (8) Benin: Benin Development of Skills for Employment n Priority Sectors – Phase I (PDCESP-I)- UA 52.99 million approved in December 2023; (9) Nigeria: Nigeria Ekiti State Knowledge Zone Project, UA 60.5 million, approved in November 2023; (10) Cameroon Promoting Entrepreneurship, Improving Skills in the Construction, Transport and Energy Sectors (PEACC) UA 51 million project approved in July 2023; (11) Togo: Projet d'Accompagnement des Jeunes Entrepreneurs sur les Chaines de Valeur Créatrices d'Emplois, - UA 15.23 million, approved in July 2023; (12) Gambia: Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project, UA 5 million approved in September 2023; (13) Multinational: Reducing Fragility, Enhancing Resilience Through Entrepreneurship and Innovation Development, UA 2.5 million approved in June 2023; (14) Eswatini: Integrating Skills and Jobs in the Mkhondvo-Ngwavuma Water Augmentation Program (ISJ-MNWAP), UA 0.5 million, approved in November 2023; (15) South Sudan: South Sudan Entrepreneurship Support to Refugees and Host Communities in South Sudan (ESRHC-SS), USD 1 million, approved in April 2023; (16) South Sudan: Support to TVET for Value Chain Development (STVET-VCD) Project, UA 7.0 million, approved in November 2023; (17) Uganda: East Africa's Centres of Excellence for Skills and Tertiary Education in Biomedical Sciences - Phase 1 – Uganda Cancer Institute: Additional Financing; UA 13.5 million, approved in December 2023; (18) Kenya: The Integrated Mechanisms for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Education and Development (IMPReSSED) Project – UA 11.74 million approved, March 2023 (19) Centre of Excellence for Aviation Skills (CEAS) Project, September 2023; and (20) Centrafrique: Support Program for the Reconstruction of Basic Communities, Phase 2 (PARCB-2), 10.1 million, approved September 2023.
	●		20 Agriculture, Water, Energy and Transport projects at End-of-cycle	EOC	

No		Committments	Success indicators	Due date	Implementation update
32.1	●	Adopt the Jobs and Skills Marker on ADF public & Private sector operations to maximize the creation of jobs for youth particularly green jobs	Jobs and Skills marker adopted	MTR only	**The Youth, Jobs and Skills Marker System (YJSMS): Was cleared by OpsCom on 23rd July 2024 and approved by the President's on 16 September 2024.** A Board technical Session on the YJSMS was held on 7th May 2025. The Board members guided that the YJSMS should be One Bank and Bank-wide; investing in youth should not just be about jobs and skills.
32.2	●	Apply the Jobs and Skills Marker on ADF public & Private sector operations to maximize the creation of jobs for youth particularly green jobs	50% of operations by End-of-cycle	EOC only	**The YJSMS pilot phase started in 2025 with 25 operations out of which 13 (52%) are for ADF Countries.** This includes the PCNs, the PARs and the Readiness Review system.
RESULTS IN ADF COUNTRIES					
33	●	Complete the Results Tracking System (RTS) with the operational and institutional Levels 3 and 4 of RMF & TYS 2.0	End of Q2, 2023.	MTR only	**The RTS has been finalised following the approval of the Bank Group RMF by the Board.** It is currently in the process of approval by the SVP and the ADF Steering Committee.
CLIMATE ACTION WINDOW					
34	●	All approved Climate Action Window projects receive technical assistance grants where required	100% (all approved projects) by End-of-cycle	EOC only	**41 projects** have been allocated adaptation financing, committing 100% of the adaptation sub-window resources, amounting to $321.75 million, as of July 2024. So far, **8** projects have been approved by the Bank's Board of Directors.The remaining **33** projects are on track to be approved by the board in the following timelines: **30 Projects by December 2025 and 3 projects by end of Q1 2026.** To fast-track the preparation of the project appraisal reports for Board submission, **20** projects have requested technical assistance grants.
35	●	Support energy efficiency including clean cooking technologies.	2 projects in 2 countries by Mid-Term-Review	MTR	**2 clean cooking projects** were prioritized for funding under the adaptation call for proposals and have been approved in 2025 covering 2 countries: • Uganda Biogas and Electric Cooking Project (UBEP) for UA 6.41m approved in April 2025 • Kenya eCooking Market Development Project (KEMDP) - as a standalone project, not as an addendum - for UA 3.21 million targeting board approval by end September /early October 2025. **An additional four projects covering four countries** have been prioritized under the Mitigation call. Details will be provided in the next report once the Mitigation Prioritization Report has been internally cleared.
	●	Countries benefit from energy efficiency measures, notably the adoption of modern clean cooking solutions	5 Countries by End-of-cycle	EOC	**2 clean cooking projects** were prioritized for funding under the adaptation call for proposals and have been approved in 2025 covering 2 countries: • Uganda Biogas and Electric Cooking Project (UBEP) for UA 6.41m approved in April 2025 • Kenya eCooking Market Development Project (KEMDP) - as a standalone project, not as an addendum - for UA 3.21 million targeting board approval by end September /early October 2025. **An additional four projects covering four countries** have been prioritized under the Mitigation call. Details will be provided in the next report once the Mitigation Prioritization Report has been internally cleared.
36	●	Allocate more Climate Action Window resources to Adaptation Projects	75% of resources by End-of-cycle	EOC only	**This target has been met.** The first call for proposals has prioritized 41 projects from 37 ADF countries. These projects are allocated US$ 321.75 million, representing 100% of the Adaptation Sub-Window and 75% of the existing pool of CAW resources. An additional 39 projects from 24 ADF countries requesting US$ 470 million have been retained on a reserve list and will be part of the CAW IOP for resource mobilization.

Notes:

i. Climate-informed design is the process through which the Bank mainstreams climate change and green growth into its operations through: i) at strategy level, aligning new Country Strategy Papers with the national climate change plans and strategies, including NDCs, LTSs and NAPs; and ii) at project level, it entails screening projects and programmes for climate risks and opportunities as well for climate finance through applying tools such as climate safeguards system, greenhouse gas accounting tool, and methodologies for climate finance tracking.

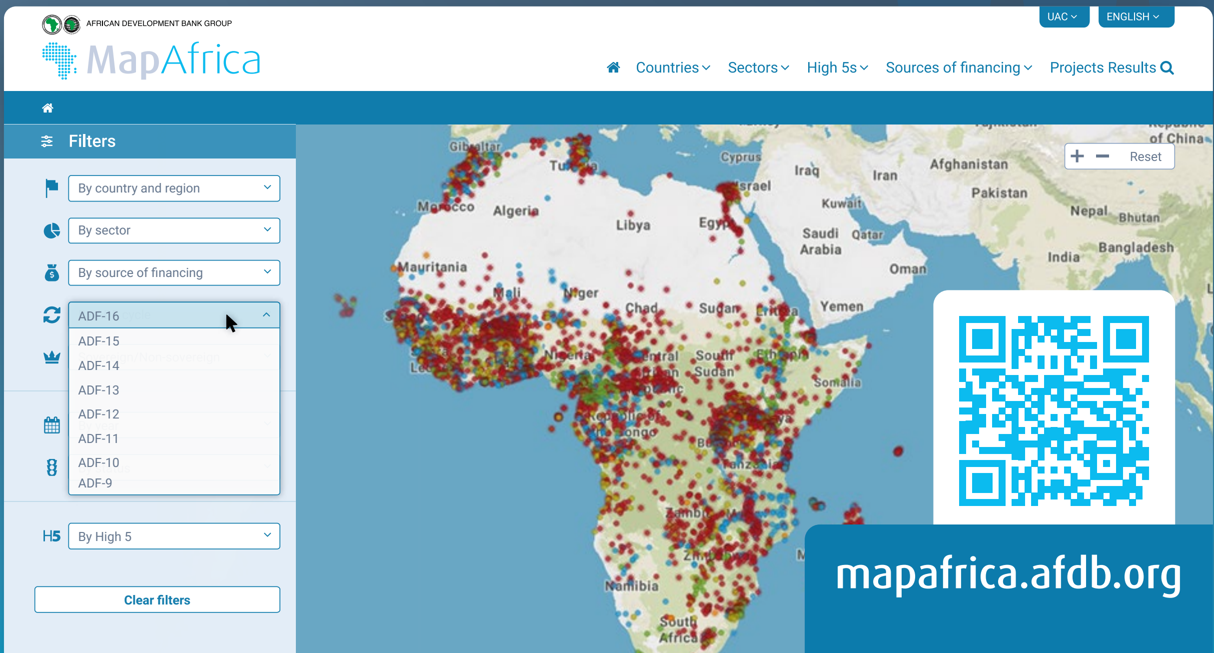
ii. Management considers that policy commitments ensure improved efficiency and impact of the Bank's operations. Mainstreaming fragility in all Bank Group programming and operational engagements and documents also ensures that execution of additional commitments is equally fragility-sensitive. In other words, an effective mechanism for mainstreaming fragility and resilience considerations will ensure that execution of new policy commitments reflect fragility considerations.

MapAfrica

MapAfrica:
Uncovering the stories behind the numbers

MapAfrica, the African Development Bank's interactive online platform, goes beyond data to illuminate the real impact of our investments across the continent. Originally launched in 2014 as a geocoding tool, MapAfrica was designed to provide stakeholders with transparent, accessible insights into the Bank's work, reinforcing our commitment to accountability and results. Today, it is much more than a map — it is a gateway to powerful stories of transformation.

Through MapAfrica, users can not only explore the locations of our projects across Africa but also delve into the narratives of those whose lives have been changed by our investments. The platform enables users to sort data by approval year, country, or sector, and zoom in to the project level for a closer look at the outcomes.



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About the African Development Fund

The African Development Fund (ADF or the Fund) is the concessional window of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group. It was established in 1972 and became operational in 1974. The Fund contributes to economic and social development in Africa's low-income countries, including those in fragile situations, by providing concessional resources and knowledge services while demonstrating clear value for money. The Fund's resources are replenished every three years by its partners, including the Bank.

This publication highlights the transformative impact of the ADF and its partners in Africa's low-income countries, showcasing operations completed in 2024 and spotlighting new investments under the ADF-16 replenishment cycle (2023–2025).

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND
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