ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON POVERTY, GENDER EQUALITY, AND CLIMATE CRISIS IN AFRICA

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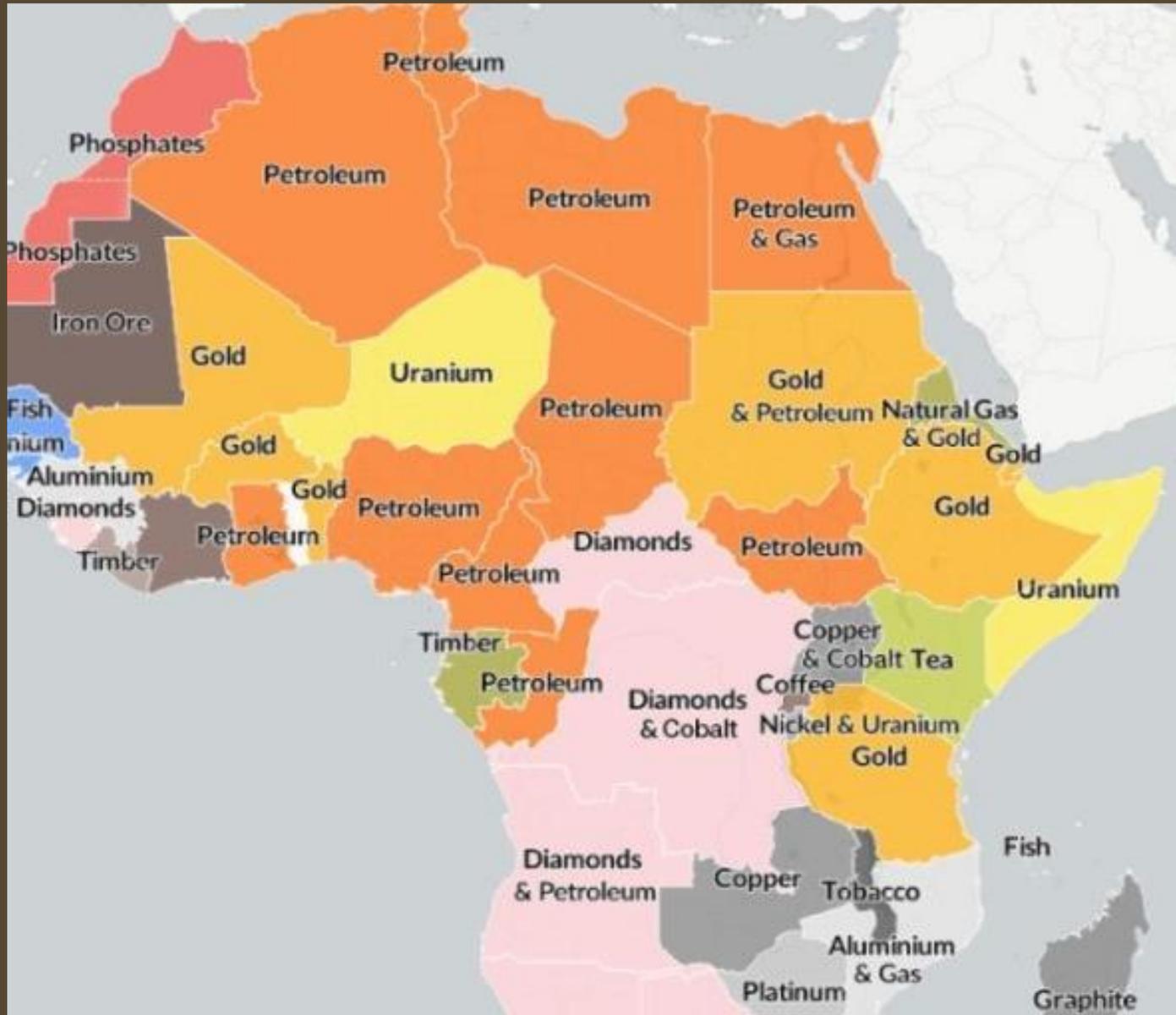
WHAT FIRST COMES TO MIND WHEN ONE THINKS OF AFRICA IS A LARGE, ANCIENT, AND ABUNDANT BUT POOR REGION OF THE EARTH. THE REASON WHY AFRICA, PARTICULARLY THE SUB-SAHARAN PART OF THE CONTINENT, STILL REMAINS UNDERDEVELOPED DESPITE ITS VAST NATURAL RESOURCES AND DECADES-LONG FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IS A WIDELY DEBATED ISSUE.

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BLESSING OR A CURSE?

INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations member States in September 2015, represents a landmark commitment to address the world's most pressing challenges while advancing a shared vision of prosperity and peace for all. At its core, the agenda comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets aimed at eradicating poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring inclusive economic growth by the year 2030.

FROM WHERE TO WHERE?

The genesis of the 2030 Agenda can be traced back to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were established in 2000 with the aim of addressing global poverty and its associated ills. While the MDGs made significant strides in reducing poverty and improving access to basic services, they were criticized for their narrow focus and lack of inclusivity.

1987 Brudtland report
1992 Rio Earth Summit
2000 Millenium Development Goals
2012 Rio 120
2015 The 2030 Agenda

From the Brundtland report to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development
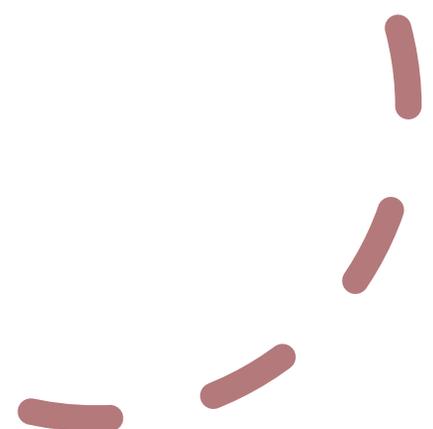
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Central to the 2030 Agenda is the principle of leaving no one behind, which emphasizes the importance of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations. The goals and targets outlined in the agenda are ambitious yet achievable, providing a roadmap for countries to pursue sustainable development in a manner that is both equitable and environmentally responsible.

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's impact on Africa offers policy recommendations for inclusive and sustainable development, focusing on poverty, gender inequality, and climate change. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the world's least developed area, with limited resources and institutional capacity (Loot, 2023).

- The analysis findings uncovered six key themes: persistent poverty, inequality and marginalization, environmental degradation, government and corruption, access to education and healthcare, and conflict and fragility. These thematic areas represent critical aspects within the context of SDGs, and African households provide a structured framework for subsequent research.

METHODS

The methodology employed for this review is a thematic analysis with an inductive approach. This is "a method for identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns (themes) within data. It minimally organizes and describes [the] data set in (rich) detail" (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

OVERVIEW OF AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

❑Access to Education and Healthcare: African countries face challenges in providing quality education and healthcare due to limited infrastructure, inadequate funding, and skilled personnel shortages.

❑Conflict and Fragility: African countries face prolonged conflicts, violence, and insecurity, disrupting social cohesion, undermining governance, and impeding development efforts.

❏ Persistent Poverty: Africa faces significant poverty challenges due to high unemployment rates, inadequate access to basic services, and limited economic opportunities, perpetuating poverty cycles in many countries.

❏Inequality and Marginalization: African countries continue to grapple with persistent inequalities, exacerbated by limited access to education, healthcare, and economic resources for marginalized groups.

❏Governance and Corruption: Africa's sustainable development efforts are hindered by weak governance, political instability, and corruption, with insufficient accountability and power concentration exacerbated by a few elites.

❏ Environmental Degradation: Africa faces severe climate change impacts, including extreme weather, desertification, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable land use, posing significant challenges to agricultural productivity, food security, and livelihoods.

AFRICA AND SDG

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030, particularly in Africa where a significant portion of the population lives below the poverty line. However, challenges like limited funding, weak governance, and social inequalities hinder progress. Inclusive approaches are crucial for ensuring marginalized groups are not left behind (Smith et al. 2019; Jones **et al**., 2020).

Gender equality is a key theme in the SDGs, with Goal 5 focusing on empowering women and girls. In Africa, gender disparities persist in education, employment, and political representation. Empowering women is essential for social justice and sustainable development. However, cultural norms, discriminatory laws, and limited resources hinder efforts. Policy reforms and targeted interventions are needed **(Adebayo et al. 2020; Okeke et al. 2018).**

Climate change threatens African households, causing food insecurity, water scarcity, and natural disasters. Integrating climate-smart agriculture practices in rural households can enhance food security. However, limited access to technology, finance, and extension services hinders adoption. Context-specific interventions are needed (Akpan et al. 2021; Ahmed et al. 2020).

RECOMMENDATION & CONCLUSION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion in Africa. However, marginalized groups face systemic barriers to accessing essential services. Community-led initiatives are crucial for empowering vulnerable households and promoting inclusive development. However, power dynamics, corruption, and lack of accountability can undermine these efforts. Transparent governance structures, participatory monitoring, and civil society engagement are needed to ensure responsive policies. A holistic approach is needed to overcome challenges and accelerate progress towards a sustainable future.

REAL OR MYTH?
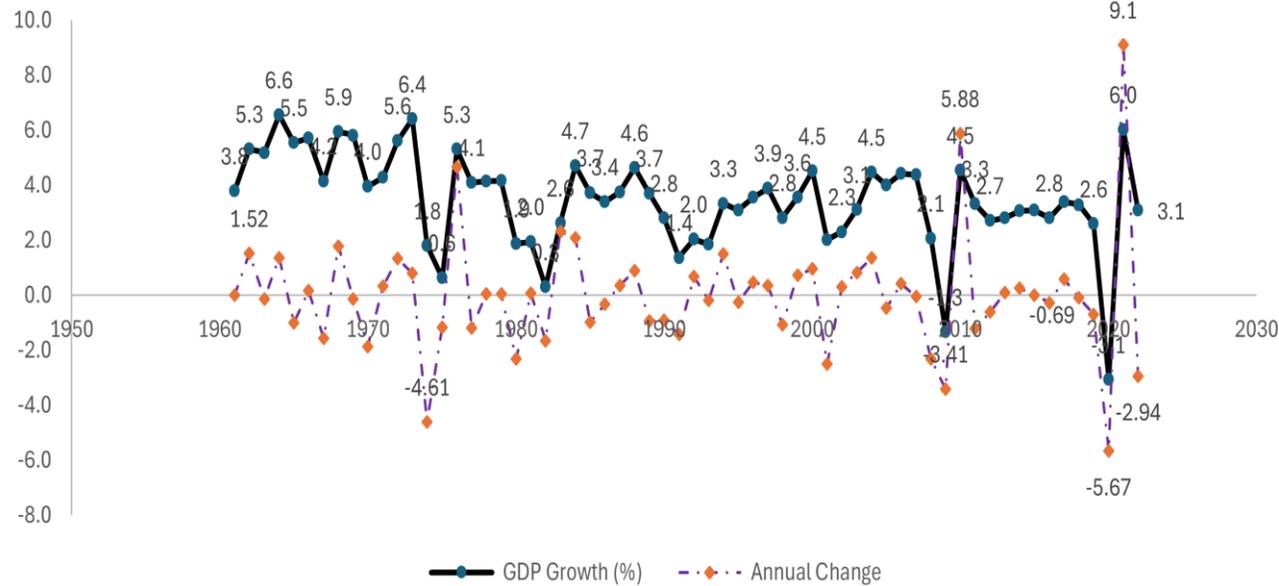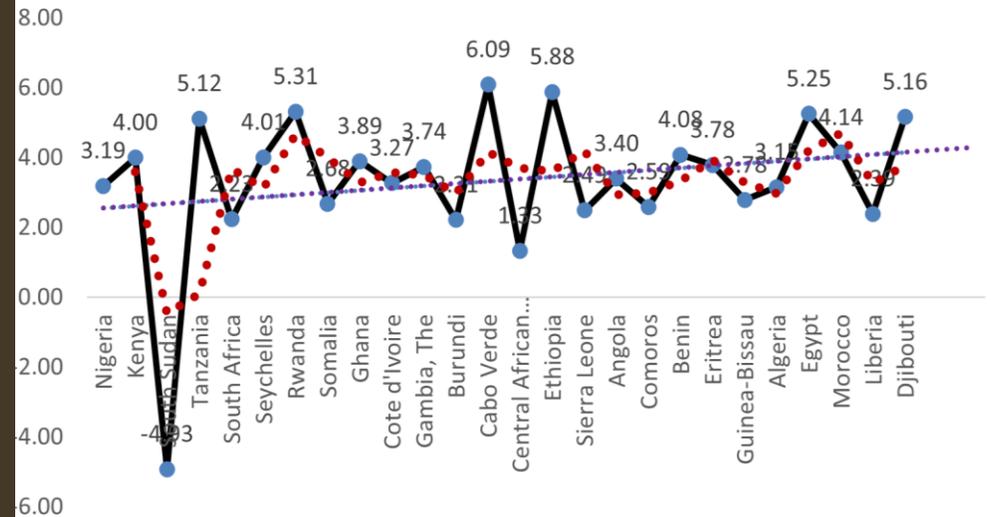
CONTD....

Millions of people in several nations, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa, do not make enough money to support their families. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic caused millions of individuals to lose their jobs and drop out of school, and rising global inflation rates have pushed an increasing number of those who were already struggling to make ends meet into poverty.

UNIVERSALISM IN DECEIT

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As African, we need to ask questions. Who designs the goals? The brains behind projects and programs are of critical importance. Who plays the leading role in the cooperation design? A number of cases from past experiences show that unilateral designs handled only by the former are more likely to fail. The reason behind such failures is primarily the global north actor lack of information or awareness of the real needs and the setting of the recipient country. Many "GOALS" are too much for us to handle.

CHALLENGES THAT IMPACT OVERALL PERFOMANCE OF SDG

As the world grapples with a number of crises, such as climate change, geopolitical unrest, cost-of-living crunch, and the recent COVID-19 pandemic, least-developed countries (LDCs) are bearing a disproportionate amount of the

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Years of growth and development progress in LDCs, particularly in important areas of the Sustainable Development Goals like gender equality, education, health, and nutrition, have been reversed as a

WAY FORWARD

When discussing the extent of the shortcomings of the SDGs in Africa, scholars need to highlight the lack of transparency in the programs in question and the frequent consultation of the people.

While it is true that the SDGs bureaucracies are unique in that the people who are supposed to benefit from this do not have the political power to influence how the bureaucracy operates, we can change this. The realization of a success story necessitates an interactive process involving active communication and collaboration with the local actors. With your support, we can instill confidence in the potential for success in Africa's sustainable development journey.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

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