

# Regional Disparities in Levels of Development in Africa

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**Abstract:** *It is a common human attitude to ask why things varied with one another, be it natural or artificial. Apart from asking why things varied for aesthetic reasons, geographers became able to make that variability a reasonable concept that will help to inform backward places to attempt to prosper and change for the better. Africa appears to be very unique continent in social, economic and cultural norms, this is due to the fact that many consider the continent very backward economically, unstable socially and diverse culturally. Economy appears to be the most important indices used as an indicator to explain the level of development of a country or continent because it is seen more visible than any other thing else is seen. Albeit, other development indicators tend to be more important than the mere mercenary hike. Africa is a vast continent that took the position of being second largest continent in terms of landmass and population. Human, mineral, cultural and other form of resources made the continent highly potential to growth and development. Unfortunately, still Africa is the most backward and least develop continent all over the world. To counter backwardness African state's governments, regional organizations and continental unions device different measures to bring changes in their economic, social, technological, cultural and many other welfare motives. These development measures encounter many hindrances from religious and cultural heritages of the Africans, the consequence of which is either drag or total elimination of the development. Actually there will be nowhere on the earth that is not affected by development to some extent, only to say somewhere is more developed than somewhere else. Africa is one of the places that one may say it is less developed than other places. Response to development in Africa is by far varied also from one place to another within the continent. To be able to decipher how variability took place among places data has to be taken, analysis should be conducted, calculation has to be there, maps has to be made, Tables would be drafted and explanation make everything clear. Regions of Africa portray a pattern of development from those that can be described as relatively developed to those that are far backward. Countries also follow the same pattern with some at the top and others below. This research collate data and follow different statistical rules to draw out the pattern of development in Africa, at state and regional level.*

**Keywords:** Development, Development indicators, Response to development, Regional disparity.

## 1. Study Area

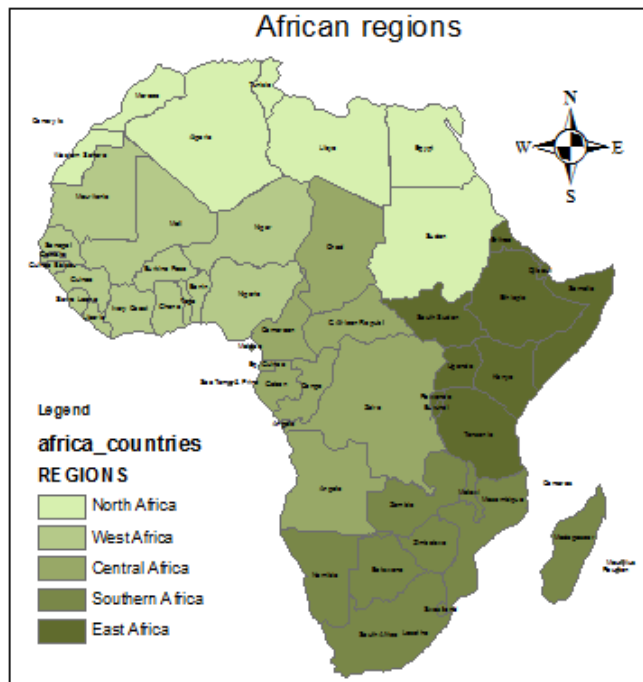
A region (Table 1 and Map 1) of this research comprises the fifty five (55) Independent African countries, and their regionalization is as follow:

**Table 1:** Countries of African Regions

North Africa (7)*	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Western Sahara and Sudan
West Africa (16)	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.
East Africa (11)	Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.
Central Africa (9)	Angola, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao tome and Principe.
Southern Africa (12)	Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

\*indicates number of countries in region.

### Map 1 Africa: Regions



Source: Drawn from Table 1.

**Research procedures:** World Development Report 2013, Human Development Report 2013, World Statistics Pocketbook 2013, Development Trends in Africa, Africa Competitiveness Report 2011 and many other International, African and related reports were the original sources of data for this research.

**Sampling size:** For the purpose of this research African countries have been divided into five sub-regions. Regionalization in this research is based on neighborhood and dependency regardless of regional associations.

It is only in West Africa that this research's region coincide with the regional association i.e. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

North African Region in this research is grouped on the basis of Arab dominance in the population and ties to the Mediterranean basin. Western Sahara is included in this region because African Union consider it as a country and the data is found in many records.

Central African region is regionalized across the center of Africa, there is some sort of considering Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) because only Burundi that is a member which we do not incorporate into the region in our research.

East African region in this research is regionalized by the countries that neighbor Indian Ocean in the east and northeastern corner, as well as land locked countries that depend on them. Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Ethiopia were incorporated to this region for their dependence to their eastern neighbors for coastal supply.

Southern African countries are regionalized in this research relative to their southern position, influence of South Africa in their economy and historical perspectives.

**2. Data Presentation and Analysis**

The indicators are elaborated under the sub-heading of major indicator.

**Demographic indicators:** These indicators determined the human resource base of a given country and life security. Large number of citizens and good health to stay longer is a platform on which development will be lain. Small population indicate lack of big market and tend to sluggish development.

Two indicators have been selected under demographic indicators. Viz.

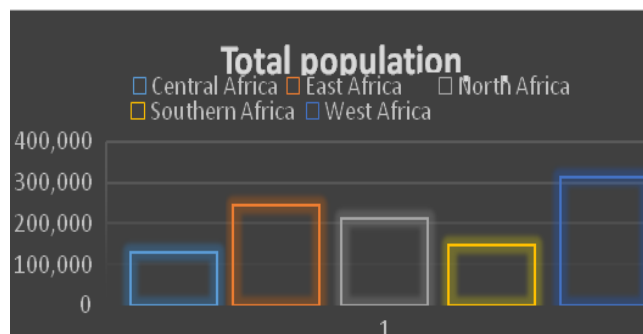
**Total population:** - Number of people living in a given area determines the rate at which environment is exploited, because the more the population grown the more will be the need of resources to be tapped from the environment.

Countries dragging large number of population also suffer difficulty in control and maintenance of stability, food provision, environmental protection and many other related challenges.

It is interesting that most of the indicators we traced in this research exposed West Africa as most backward which commensurate with West Africa having more population (311,822,000) among the sub-regions. The more than 29% of Africans in West Africa coupled with high growth rate also to show threat in the near future.

African population is 1,045,663,000 (1.045 Billion) which is too large if one look at the rampant poverty and poor health care that the inhabitants suffered.

East Africa (243,744,000) is the second most populous, North Africa (212,987,000) the third, Southern Africa having 146,711,000 is second to the last, while Central Africa (129,982,000) is least populous African sub-region. Figure 1 illustrate the regional total population of African sub-regions



**Figure 1:** Population of African Regions

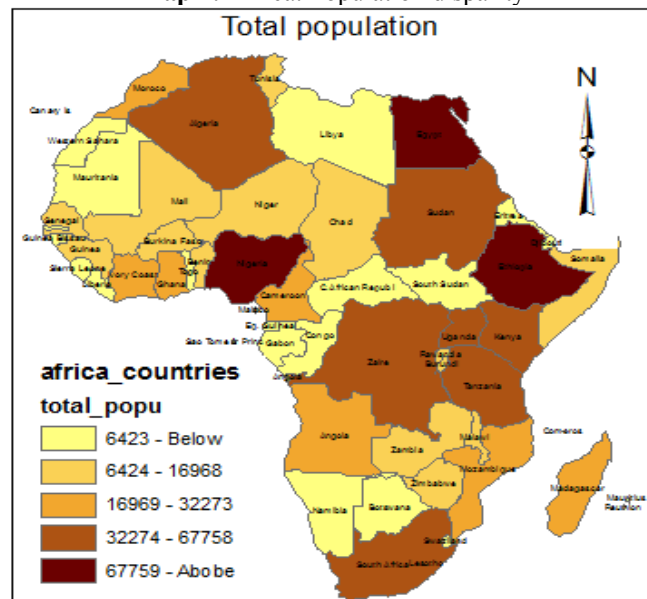
Source: Drawn from above data.

Maternal health care, high growth rate, urbanization, environmental hygiene, gender inequality, etc. are the demographic parameters that should be improved to have a better and healthy Africa.

Nigeria's population of 162,471,000 is the largest in Africa, and by the way it is not appearing best in most developmental indicators. This is cue to probably indirect proportion between large population and speedy development. Seychelles having only 87,000 population is the least populous African independent country, so also it is among top countries in many development indicators.

African population in all the means is not beyond optimum if vast resource endowment of the continent is considered. Congo DR, the fourth most populous country in Africa can transform not only itself, but Africa if its people avoid conflict and embrace development using their water resource. Map 2 below shows disparity among countries in terms of their population size.

**Map 2:** Africa: Population disparity



Source: Compiled from data.

**Life expectancy at birth:** - It's human nature to love living longer and assurance of life security. It is common for 80 years old man/woman to dislike death and love to see several birthdays ahead.

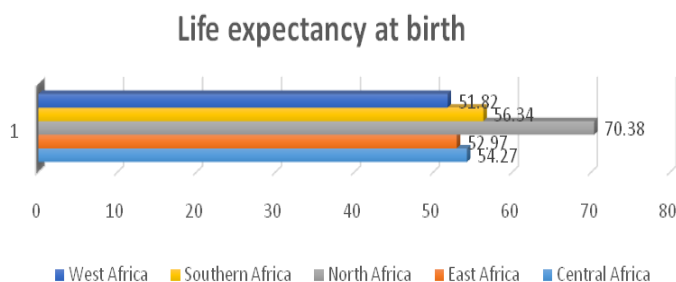
Life expectancy is the probable assurance that government can give its population regarding how long possibly they could have security of their lives. African can only expect to see his 58th birthday, while average European or Japanese expected above 70<sup>th</sup>.

Improved health care, good physician to population ratio and relatively judicious use of wealth made North Africa a better place to live in the continent. The average life expectancy at birth of North African is 70.38 years which is 13 years above the African mean (57.15 years).

High level of education and several adjustment efforts in health care to curtail HIV/AIDS made living in Southern Africa good, and of course the life expectancy has improved to second position in the continent (56.34 years).

Central African sub-region took third position with the life expectancy of 54.27 years, despite most African wars at the current time are happening in the region. Peace and judicious use of vast resource endowment in this sub-region can boost everything up.

In East Africa the health care is by far at threat due to race between food security and public health. The regional mean (52.97 years) is below the continental mean with four years, though still it is better than West Africa. West African mean life expectancy of 51.82 years is very low and may be unacceptable to 21<sup>st</sup> century civilization. This average is below that of North Africa with 19 years, which (19 years age) is a full adulthood age. So also, this West African mean is below the regional mean with five years. The figure (2) below illustrate the pattern of life expectancy among African sub-regions.



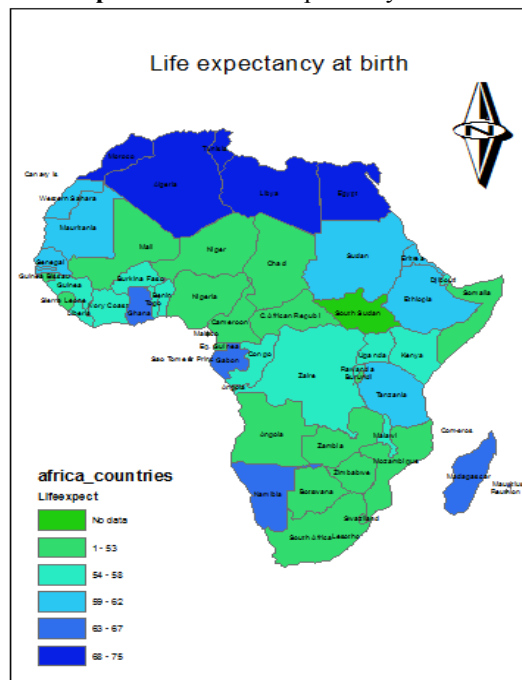
**Figure 2:** Africa: Life expectancy

Source: Drawn from statistics of the collected data

74.7 years life expectancy in Tunisia is the oldest age African can get, while 48.1 years in Sierra Leone is the least an African survive. It is worth saying that average life expectancy of Niger, Guinea Bissau, Swaziland, Zambia, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo DR, and Lesotho is below fifty, which is more like pre-industrial world.

Increased physician to population ratio, providing medical care facilities etc. are the foundation to good life expectancy in whole Africa and West Africa in particular. Map (3) below display the disparity in life expectancy all over Africa.

**Map 3:** Africa: Life expectancy at birth



Source: Drawn from collected data.

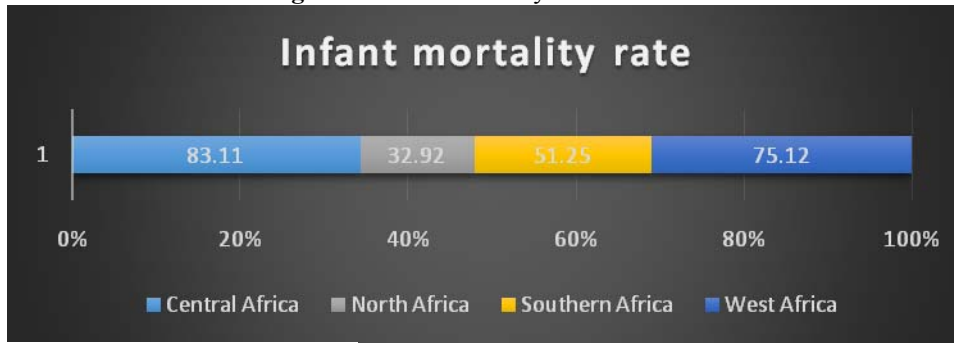
**Health indicators:** To asses health care development in Africa two major sub-indicators have been used i.e. Infant mortality rate and number of physicians relative to the size of the population.

**Infant mortality rate:** - Fragility of life at young age and total dependence of child to adult-support made his living against death worth giving special consideration in development arena. Infant mortality rate in North African sub-region is good, for there is only mean death of 32.92 children per thousand live birth, which is far below the continental mean of 60.98 per thousand. Southern Africa having 51.25 infants death per thousand is the second best and also below the continental mean.

Central African mean infant mortality of 83.11 per thousand is the worst in the continent, a typical indication of least security of children's life before their fifth birthday.

East Africa with 62.54 and West Africa with 75.12 infant mortality rates are the third and fourth deadliest zones for children in the continent. Preceding figure (3) have shown the pattern of infant mortality rates per 1000 live birth among African sub-regions.

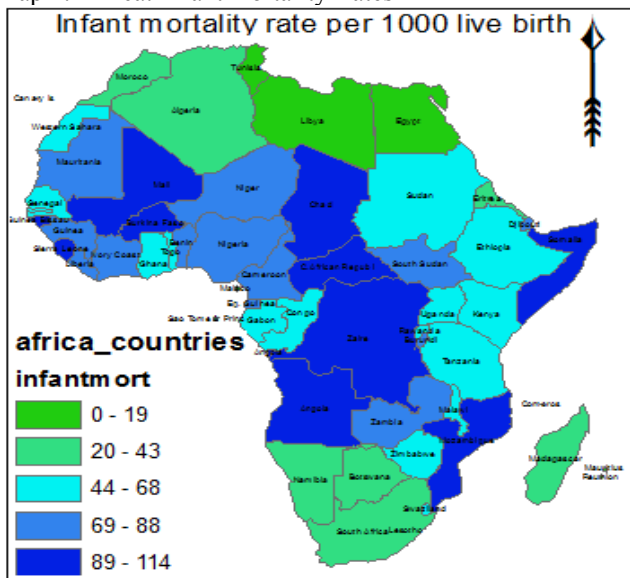
Figure 3: Infant mortality rates in Africa



Source: Drawn from statistics of the collected data

Sierra Leone has 114 infant mortality, and this is the highest in the continent. So also Seychelles having IMR of just 12 per 1000 is the least in the continent. In the following map (4) variability of African states in infant mortality rates have been plotted.

Map 4: Africa: Infant mortality Rates



Source: Drawn from collected data.

**Number of physicians per 1000 of population:** - Large number of physicians relative to the population is an important health indicator, because it is expected that high supply of doctors reduce the cost of health care and facilitate maximum care of patients.

North African mean doctors per thousand of population is just 1.14, meaning a single doctor has to care for more than 900 people. Nevertheless, this proportion is the highest and far above the continental average (0.38/1000), showing a very poor health care.

Southern Africa is the second class with only 0.3 physician per 1000 of population.

Central and East Africa both have the average of 0.18 physician per 1000 of population, where West Africa has only 0.1 per 1000 of population.

All the regions but North Africa has proportion of physicians relative to their population above the African average. Figure below portray the distribution of number of physicians per 1000 of population among African sub-regions.

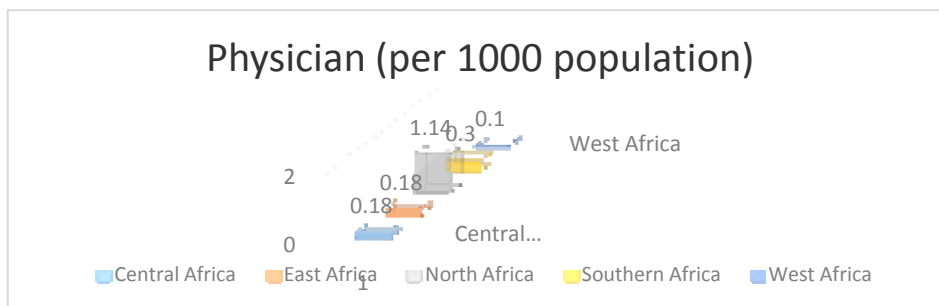


Figure 4: Number of Physicians in Africa

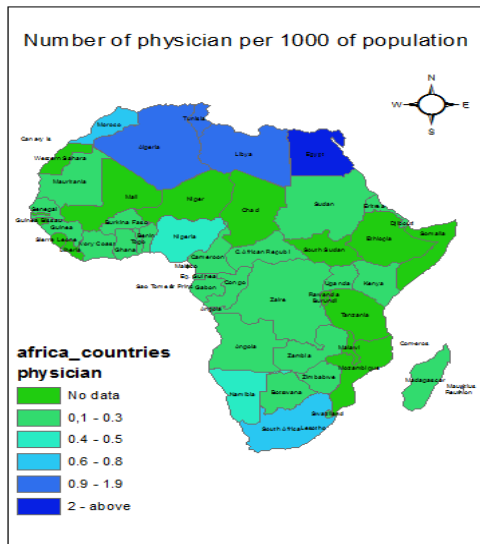
Source: Drawn from statistics of the collected data

Egypt is the best in physician-population ratio where the value is as high as 2.8 physician per 1000 of population. The whole of North Africa has more than 1 physician per 1000 of population except Sudan (0.3) and Morocco (0.6). Also, in all countries of the remaining four sub-regions the population-physician ratio is below 1 except in Seychelles (1.5) and Mauritius (1.1).

To most astonishing, in whole of West Africa the number of physician per 1000 of population is 0.1 in all the countries except in Nigeria which has 0.4.

Improved health care by training more physicians is at the brink of urgency in Africa, especially the sub-Saharan zone. Map (5) below show country wise disparity in number of medical doctors per person in Africa.

Map 5: Africa: Physician-population ratio



Source: Drawn from collected data.

**Social indicators:** Social welfare relative to the access to basic necessities of life by citizens in a country is very crucial. Females are the other half of humanity who's taken backward position in development efforts of almost all societies.

To me humanity is like atom that most have equal positive and negative charges to maintain its stability. Male gender may be considered as a positive charge and female gender a negative charge, but no doubt their participation in global development activities is not balanced. This imbalance may be responsible for global development drag because positive charge forgot to attract its negative counterpart for maintaining stability.

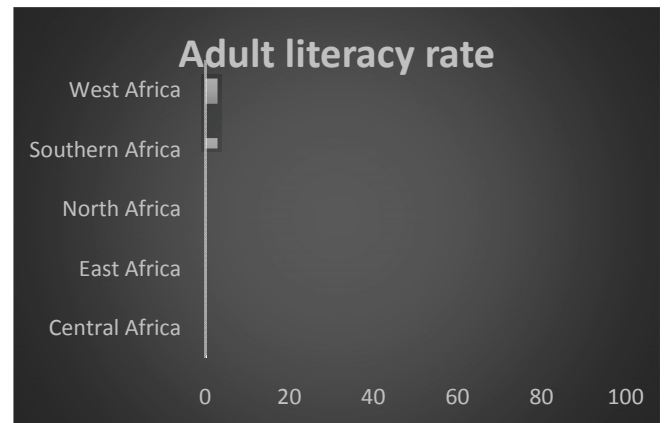
Social sub-indicators used in this research are; Adult literacy rate, gender inequality index and mean years of schooling or population with post primary education. Their digest one after the other are as follow:

**Adult literacy rate:** - Education as Hausa proverb remarked is the "salt of life". Large number of those that are able to read and write is important, because of the power of education to split man from animal path.

Southern African mean literacy rate of 80.1% is the highest, followed by Central Africa 63.28%. These two regions are relatively good in education because their value is above the continental mean of 62.92%. North African mean 62.65% is the midway among the regions.

East African mean 57.77% and West African mean 50.8% are the worst. Much has to be done especially in West Africa to improve education level because of the power of literacy to create economically active population, wipe poverty, and induce peace and socio-political stability. Figure (5) below illustrate the variability of Adult literacy rate among African sub-regions.

Figure 5: Adult literacy rates in Africa

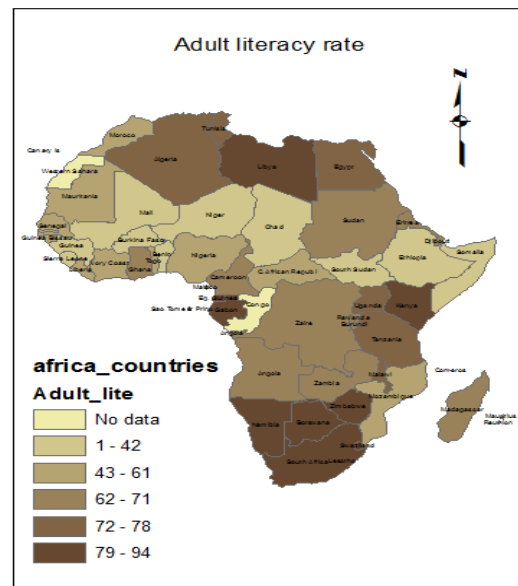


Source: Drawn from statistics of the collected data

Only three countries has adult literacy rate of more than 90% which is the typical of developed realms of the world. Seychelles in East Africa 91.8%, Zimbabwe in Southern Africa 92.2% and Equatorial Guinea in Central Africa 93.9%.

Burkina Faso and Niger both in West Africa with only 28.7% literacy rate may be the most illiterate part of the world. The following map (6) shows the variability of literacy rate among African countries.

Map 6: Africa: Literacy rates



Source: Drawn from collected data

**Gender Inequality Index:** In Africa the level of female's participation in developmental activities is less relative to other world realms though they are to some extent better than some Asian sub-regions. East Africa with the mean of 0.23 has the best Gender Inequality Index in Africa, so female participate well in the socioeconomic affairs of the region.

African mean of 0.36 also is below that of Central and North Africa (0.34 and 0.35 respectively) but above West and Southern Africa (0.46 and 0.43 respectively). Figure (6)

below depict the variability of Gender Inequality Index among African regions.

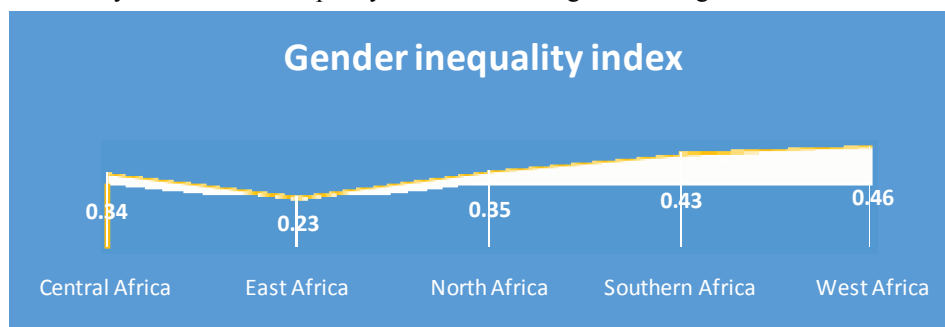


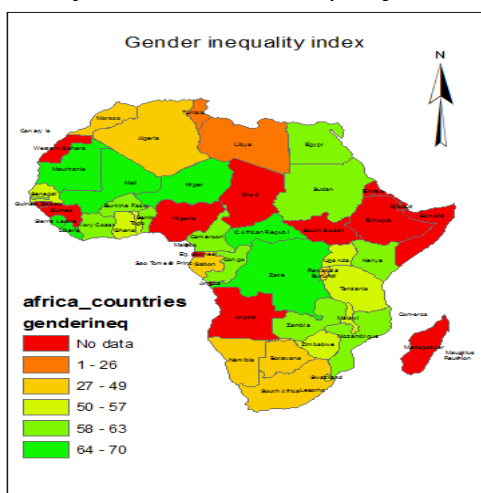
Figure 6: Africa’s Gender inequality index

Source: Drawn from statistics of the collected data

Congo DR is the country with worst Gender inequality index, where the value is as high as 0.681. Nevertheless, Libya has the best females participation with the value as low as 0.216. Africa should realize that no development will happen if half of the population (females) is not active.

Map (7) below display disparity between states of Africa in gender inequality index. The smallest value in gender inequality index is the better one.

Map 7: Africa: Gender inequality index



Source: Drawn from data

**Population with at least secondary education:** - Time taken by student in class is very important in measuring the amount of education one acquired, because it is believed the more one be in class the more he will learn something. African mean value of population with post primary education is found to be 23.02%. With meagerness of this continental value still it is above the values of West African 14.33%, Central Africa 17.73% and East Africa 19.83%. Southern African mean of 33.89% is the best in Africa followed by the value of North Africa 29.34%. Figure (7) below described the variability of population with at least secondary education among African sub-realms.

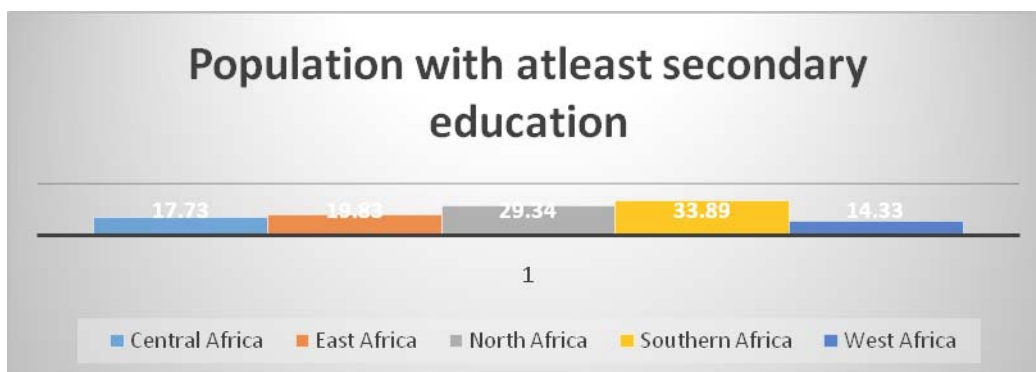


Figure 7: Secondary education in Africa

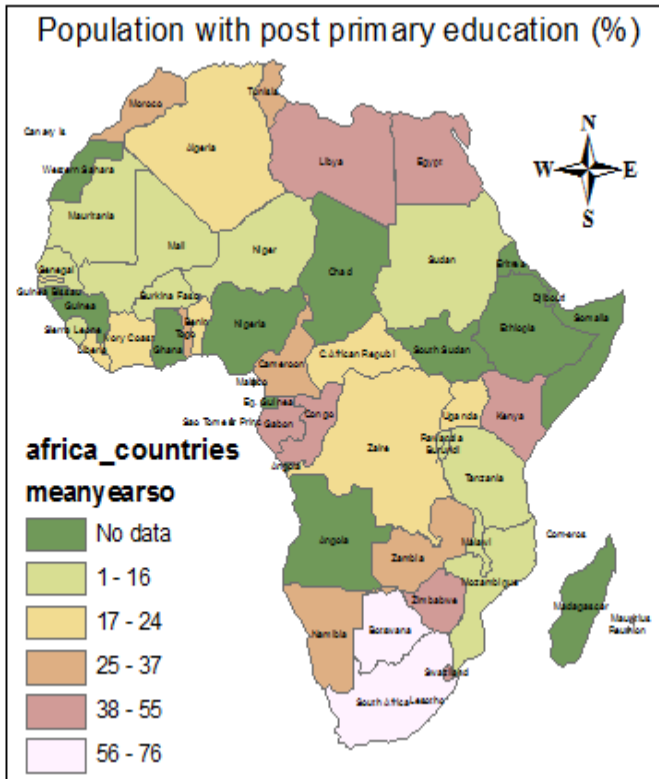
Source: Drawn from statistics of the collected data

75.5% population with at least secondary education in Botswana is the best post primary education in Africa. Only 2.0% population with secondary education in Burkina Faso

is the least post primary education in the continent and probably in the world.

Map (8) below shows the country wise disparity in percentage of post primary 7education among African countries.

Map 8: Africa: Levels of Education



Source: Drawn from data.

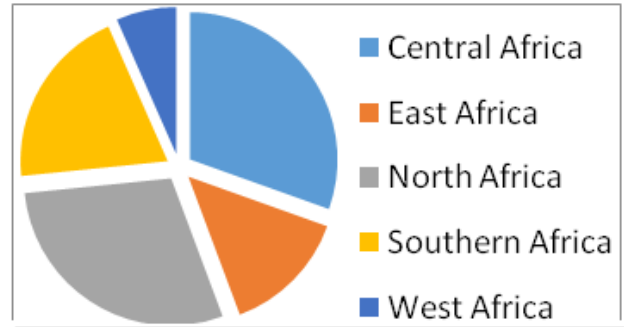
**Economic indicators:** Amount of money individual produce is the bit of building strong economy. Where per capita share is large the total economy will be big especially if coupled with large population. Inequality in every economy whether big or small is inescapable, but amount necessary for survival per day must be acquired by individual.

**GDP per capita:** - GDP per capita of Central African region is the highest at the mean of \$6821.44, about double of the African mean \$4477.66. North Africa with \$6,508.57 ranked second in mean GDP per capita.

Southern Africa (4476.25) is the third, East Africa (3101.18) fourth in per Capita GDP with wide gap between second and third.

West Africa has the lowest per capita with the mean of \$1480.87, more than four times lower than that of Central Africa. Figure (8) below depict the GDP Per capita disparity among the African regions.

Figure 8: Africa: GDP per capita



Source: Drawn from statistics of the collected data

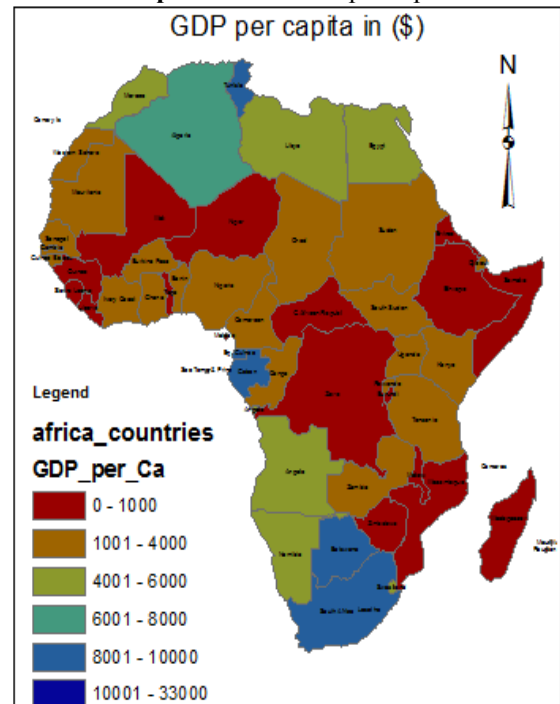
Equatorial Guinea got highest position in per capita GDP with \$32,026 and Congo DR provides the lowest at only \$329. It is important to note that both the lowest and highest GDP per person is also found in the same region. It is important to note that, within individual countries of African rich regions there is problem of inequality. For example, rich Gabon's capital Libreville and Port Gentil alone occupy half of the country's population due to concentration of employment opportunities in these two cities, and consequently high rate of rural-urban migration.

Current global scenario asks for developing strong economy not only to become luxuriant, but to frighten rough countries that are always looking around to found weak countries and snatch them or their resources. Big economies can create friendship with many states and form military alliances to safe guard their territory. To my understanding peaceful survival of states depend on the following ring:

Population- money- military- alliances

Therefore, African states must develop patriotic population, potent economy, and strong military and sincere alliances. Map (9) below show country wise variability in GDP per person in Africa.

Map 9: Africa: GDP per capita

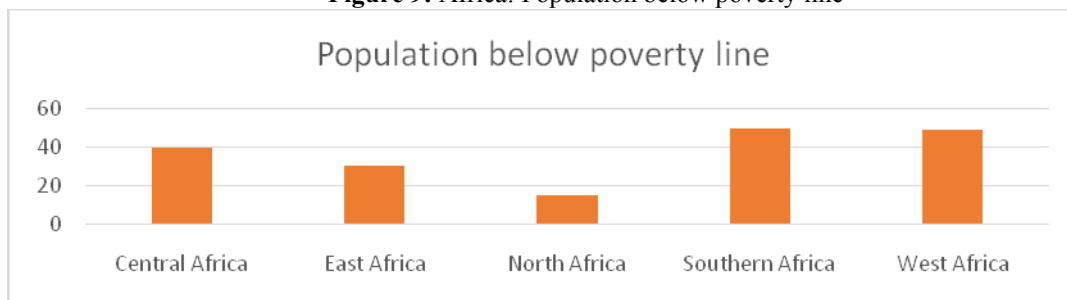


Source: Drawn from collected data.

**Population below poverty line:** Based on data statistics, North Africa with the mean of 14.9% population below poverty line is the best in eradicating poverty and was surpassed by African mean 36.63%. East Africa ranked second in good poverty eradication where only 30.61% of the population is below the countries poverty line. Central Africa (39.56) and West Africa (48.75) are third and fourth respectively even though the number of people below their poverty line is almost thrice that of North Africa.

Southern African mean population below poverty line is 49.35% which is the highest region wise. This large population of poor may be related to the old racial discrimination of white Europeans to the indigenous black population of this region. Figure (9) below show the disparity of population below poverty line in African regions.

**Figure 9:** Africa: Population below poverty line



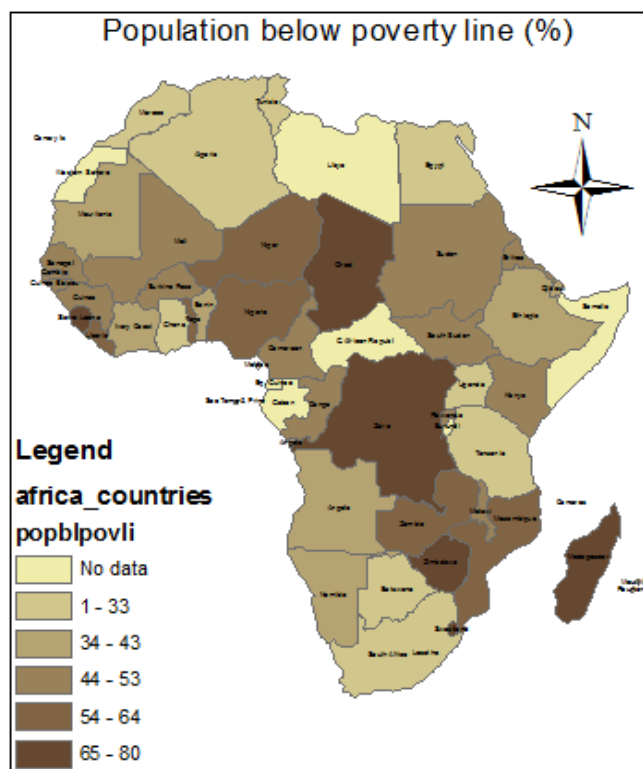
Source: Drawn from statistics of the collected data

Africa has to go fast in removing poverty and promoting employment opportunities, basically because of the dominance of young in its population that may be employed in turmoil and terrorism if positive jobs are not available. Much has to be done especially in West Africa that comprises more than 29% of the continent’s population and strongly-poverty-bitten like Sierra Leon, Liberia and Togo.

Tunisia is the best with only 3.8% of the population living below the country’s poverty line. South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia were the most affected by European subjugation in creating wide gap between the haves and have nots. There is lesson of hard work to neutralizing inequality in South Africa because from the end of Apartheid in late 1990s to date they dropped their population below poverty line to just 23%, but Zimbabwe still has 72% of its population living below poverty line.

Chad having more than 80% of the population living below poverty line is the worst in Africa. Poverty in many African states especially in villages make peasants proliferate children to help in supporting the family. This commensurate with remark of MahmoodMamtani: “whilst the rich farmers invest in machines, the poor villagers invest in children.” Map (10) show the countries variability in number of people living below poverty line in Africa.]

**Map 10:** Africa: Population below poverty line



Source: made by the researcher

### 3. Results and Findings

It is beyond the right of this research to authoritatively acclaim a given region in Africa is working for betterment of its people more than the other, but still if data is collected and analyses of data have the right to speak for themselves under the pen of the researcher.

As per the analysis of data above, a pattern of uneven development among regions and countries throughout Africa is found. Undoubtedly, each country even if at some point in



time encounter dictatorship, authoritarianism or other forms of government that is contrary to development, there were-and still-is some sort of development measures put in place.

Response to development is something that worth looking at, because government may decide to put in place development activity but cultural, religious and other social reasons instigate people to go worn it out. Hence, there is of course concept of response to development in Africa, enlighten people to prepare development at the expense of social rationale must not be out of mention. The four major indicators of this research show a variability, where one region led in indicator and another region surpass it in other indicator.

**Demographic indicators:** In total population West Africa became first, East Africa second, North Africa third, Southern Africa fourth and the fifth and last Central African region. In life expectancy North Africa is the first, Southern Africa second, Central Africa third, East Africa fourth and the last and fifth is West Africa.

Table (2) below shows the sequence of the two parameters using mean value of the countries in the region.

**Table 2:** Demographic indicators of Africa

Region	Total Population (000)	Rank	Life expectancy	Rank
West Africa	311822.1	1	51.82	5
East Africa	243744	2	52.97	4
North Africa	212987	3	70.38	1
Southern Africa	146711	4	56.34	2
Central Africa	129982	5	54.27	3

Source: Drawn from statistics

**Health indicators:** Under this category we have two indicators that followed almost the same sequence. North Africa is the best and first with less infant mortality rate, Southern Africa second, East Africa third, West Africa fourth and Central Africa fifth. North Africa is the first also in number of physicians-population ratio, Southern Africa second, Central and East Africa together are the third and lastly West Africa as the fourth.

Table 3 below show the sequence of the two parameters using mean value of the countries in the region.

**Table 3:** Health indicators of Africa

Region	Infants mortality rate	Rank	Physicians per population (000)	Rank
North Africa	32.92	1	1.14	1
Southern Africa	51.25	2	0.30	2
East Africa	62.54	3	0.18	3
West Africa	75.12	4	0.10	4
Central Africa	3.11	5	0.18	3

Source: Drawn from statistics

**Social indicators:** There are three sub-indicators here, they follows as under:

In literacy rate Southern Africa is the first, Central Africa second, North Africa third, East Africa fourth and lastly

West Africa. In Gender inequality index East Africa is the first with less inequality, Central Africa second, North Africa third, Southern Africa fourth and West Africa fifth.

In the side of Population with post primary education, Southern Africa is the first, North Africa second, East Africa third, Central Africa fourth and West Africa is last. These sequences are illustrated in the following table (4) using mean value of the countries in the region.

**Table 4:** Social indicators of Africa

Region	Adult literacy rate (%)	Rank	Gender inequality index	Rank	Population with post primary education (%)	Rank
Southern Africa	80.10	1	0.43	4	33.89	1
Central Africa	63.28	2	0.34	2	17.73	4
North Africa	62.65	3	0.35	3	29.34	2
East Africa	57.77	4	0.23	1	19.83	3
West Africa	50.80	5	0.46	5	14.33	5

Source: Drawn from statistics

**Economic indicators:** There are two important sub-indicators here, their patterns are as follows:

In GDP per capita, Central African region is the first, North Africa second, Southern Africa third, East Africa fourth and West Africa fifth. In terms of the number of population living below poverty line, North Africa is the first with less population below poverty line, East Africa second, Central Africa third, West Africa fourth and Southern Africa fifth. Table (5) below illustrate the patterns of these indicators using mean value of the countries in the region.

**Table 5:** Economic indicators of Africa

Region	Per capita GDP	Rank	Population below poverty line (%)	Rank
Central Africa	6821.44	1	39.56	3
East Africa	3101.18	4	30.61	2
North Africa	6508.57	2	14.90	1
Southern Africa	4476.25	3	49.35	5
West Africa	1480.87	5	48.75	4

Source: Drawn from statistics

In a nutshell, North Africa is the first in four indicators, second in two indicators, third in three indicators and never became fourth or fifth.

Southern Africa became first in two indicators, second in three indicators, third in one indicator, fourth in two indicators and fifth in one indicator. East Africa appear first in one indicator, second in two indicators, third in three indicators, fourth in three indicators and never appear fifth. Central Africa came first in one indicator, second in two indicators, third in three indicators, fourth in one indicator and fifth in two indicators. West Africa forced first in one indicator, fourth in three indicators, and fifth in five indicators, also never appear second or third.

Based on the result found we applied the formula of calculating index of individual indicator and human development index. viz.

$$\text{Index for each indicator} = \frac{\text{Actual value} - \text{Minimum value}}{\text{Maximum} - \text{Minimum value}}$$

$$\text{HDI} = \frac{\text{Sum of indices for all the indicators}}{\text{Number of indicators used}}$$

We appreciate the result and remarked by given order from highest to the lowest, relative to the correlation in the continent. The resultant human development index for each region is as given in the following table:

**Table 6:** Africa: Index of development

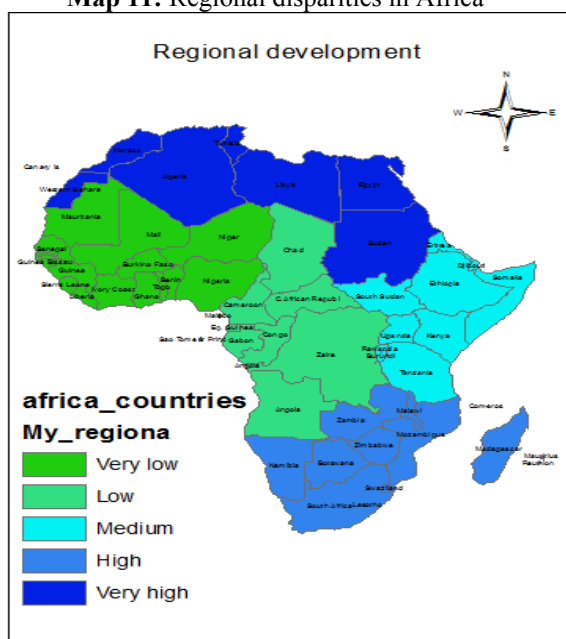
Region	Index of development (value)	Remark
North Africa	0.493	Very high
Southern Africa	0.363	High
East Africa	0.313	Medium
Central Africa	0.257	Low
West Africa	0.229	Very low

Source: Drawn from statistics

North Africa is the first most developed, Southern Africa second, East Africa third, Central Africa fourth and West Africa lies last in development scenario.

North African value is more than twice that of West Africa, indication of wide gap between the two regions in their development indicators. This value, even though its amount is not the same with that of Human development report, but the patterns of regional developments are almost same and overlapping. On the basis of this data, a regional disparity in levels of development in Africa has been mapped as follows:

**Map 11:** Regional disparities in Africa



Source: Drawn from table 11.

If we turned to ranking individual countries, there are only seven countries that appear best or top position in all the

indicators. Equatorial Guinea appear first in two indicators, Tunisia in two indicators, Libya in one indicator, Botswana in one indicator, Nigeria in one indicator, Seychelles in one indicator and Egypt in one indicator.

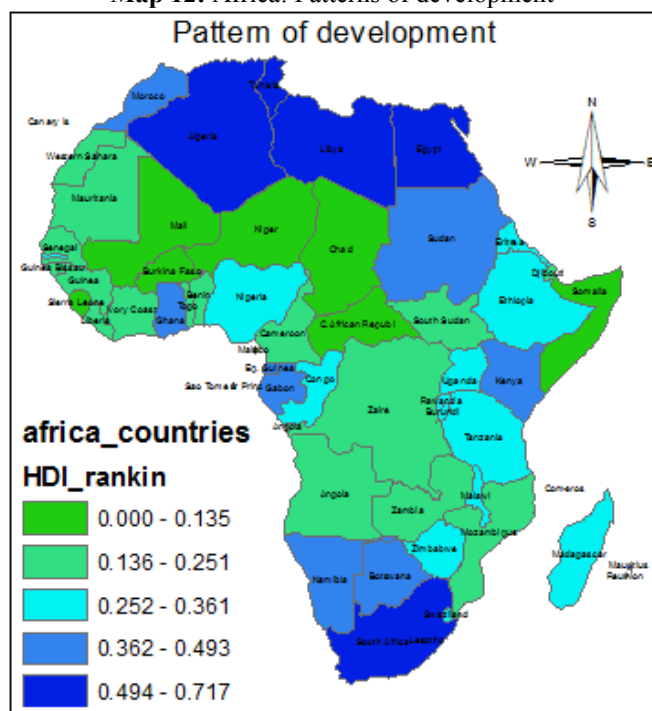
Five countries occupy the bottom position in all the indicators in addition to ratio of physicians per population where seventeen countries that we have their data appear together in the bottom position.

Congo DR acquire lowest position in two indicators, Burkina Faso in two indicators, Sierra Leone in two indicators, Chad in one indicator, and Seychelles in one indicator.

Countries at the lowest position of Physicians relative to population are; Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, Angola, Central African Republic, Congo, Congo DR, Eritrea, Kenya, Lesotho, Zambia and Uganda.

The map (12) below describe the patterns of human development among African countries.

**Map 12:** Africa: Patterns of development



Source: Drawn from data collected

#### 4. Conclusion

African continent is vast and wide with big population and vast human resource. Physiographic and layout of the continent facilitate development of numerous opportunities and resource bases. Different cultural and linguistic groups bring ample human abilities and artistic power to perceive and exploit resources. Study of regional disparity has shown how developmental activities vary from place to place in the continent. While some regions and countries go far in improving their socio-economic growth, others are left behind with many challenges. Even though, some regions and countries are better off in the continent, but they need

additional efforts to compete at global scale. Hope and optimism is the foundation African leaders and citizens have to create for building a developed continent in the coming future.

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