Urban Sanitation Situation in Africa: Coverage, Trends & Issues

20th African Water Association (AfWA) International Congress & Exhibition

24-27 February 2020

**Accelerating access to urban sanitation services: For Every Child in Africa**

unicef

for every child

- 1 in 4 of the world's people will be Sub-Saharan African (SSA) in 2050; the ratio was 1 in 13 in 1960

- Urban population growing fastest in SSA.

- Region is home to the world's youngest and fastest-growing population

- 45% of the population will reside in small towns and cities

- Secondary cities are reception centers for rural-urban migration

- Authorities focus more on primary cities

Population growth in Africa is projected to remain strong throughout this century

Population by region, in billions
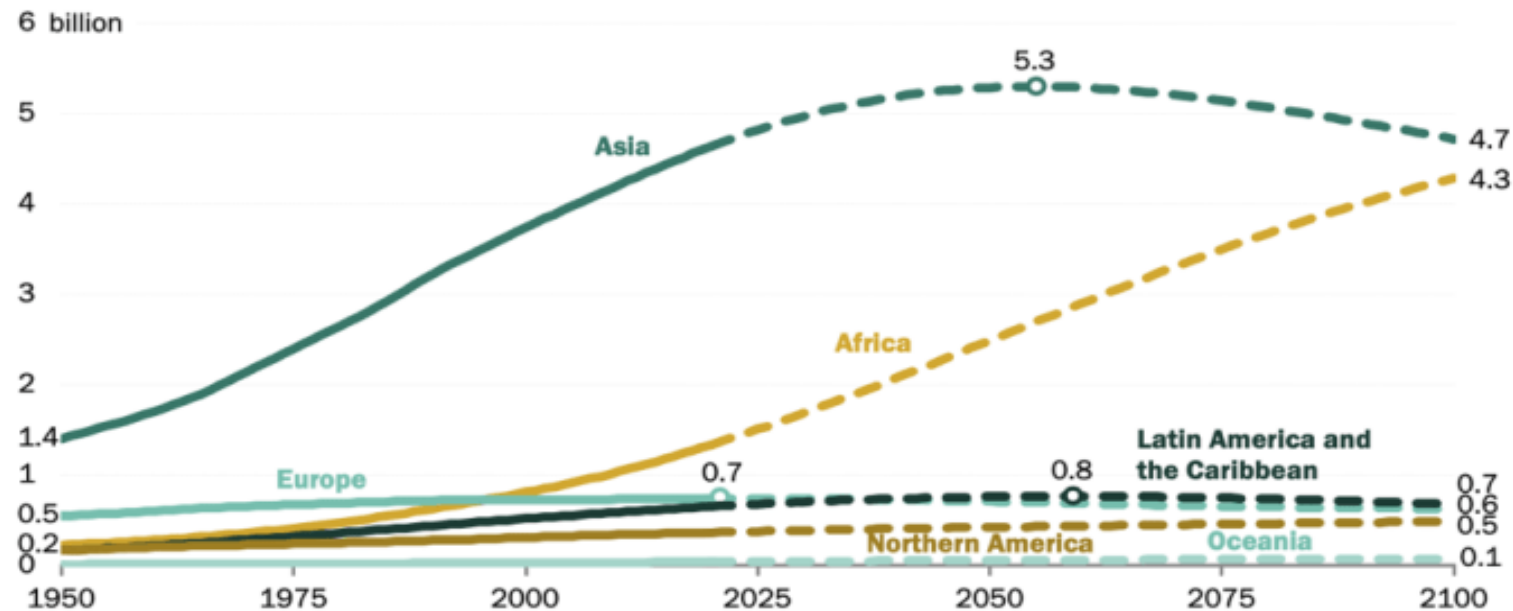
Note: Data labels show projected peak population for each region: Europe (2021), Asia (2055) and Latin America and the Caribbean (2058). Regions follow United Nations definitions and may differ from other Pew Research Center reports.
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "World Population Prospects 2019."

- **Are mid-sized cities the engine of our world's fast-paced urbanization?**
- **Secondary cities in SSA: 100,000 - 500,000 people**

Share of Urban Population by Size
2015
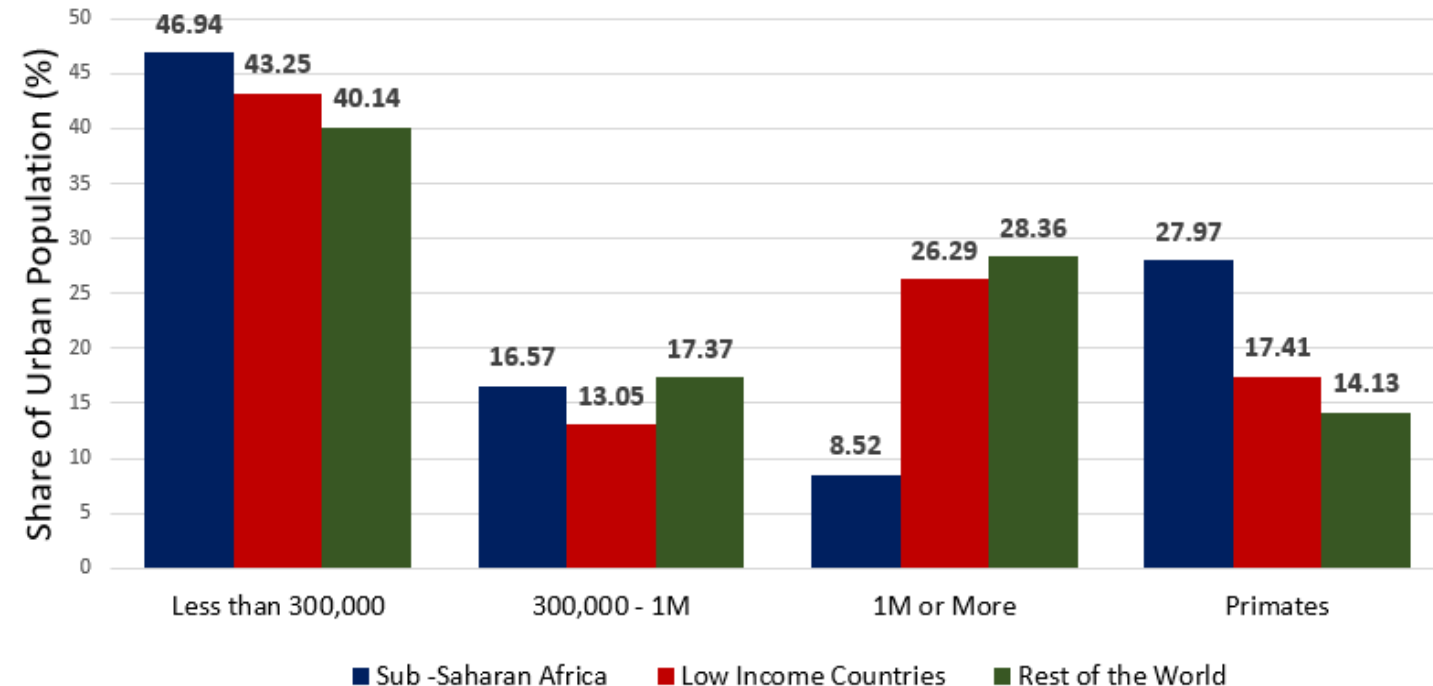
SSA 39 countries, Low- Middle: 33, ROW 77 countries
Countries must have an urban population of at least 1m

- **In SSA over 46% of urban population live in cities below 300,000 in population; only 28% in primary cities**
- **Secondary cities are primary reception centers to rural–urban migration**
- **Future SSA secondary cities will be unique because of the youth bulge**
- **But are challenged because "*Africa is not fully prepared for this population explosion*"**

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
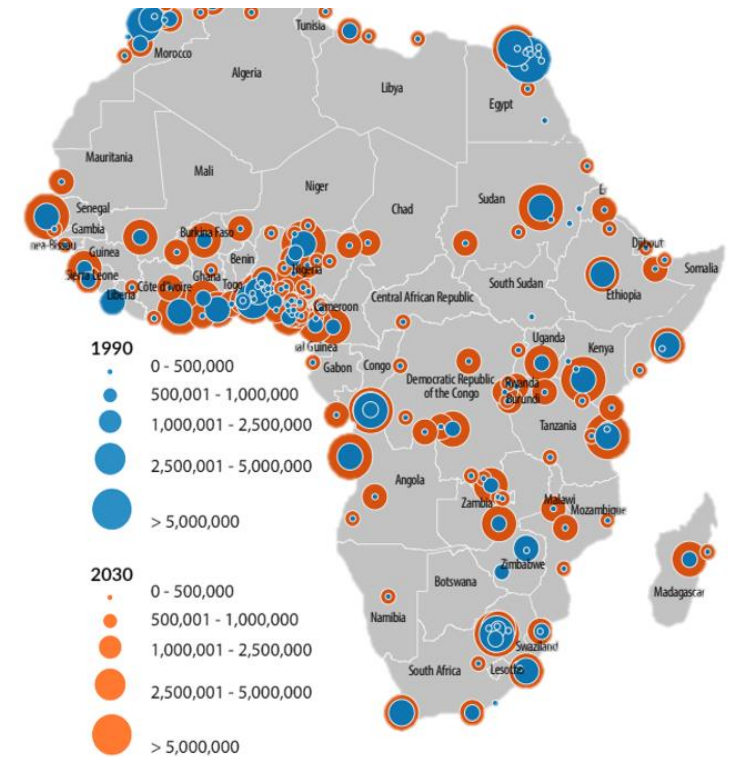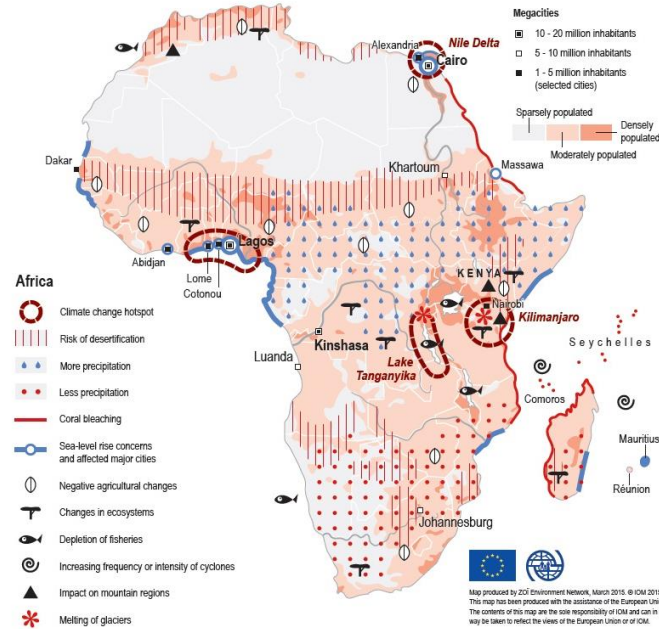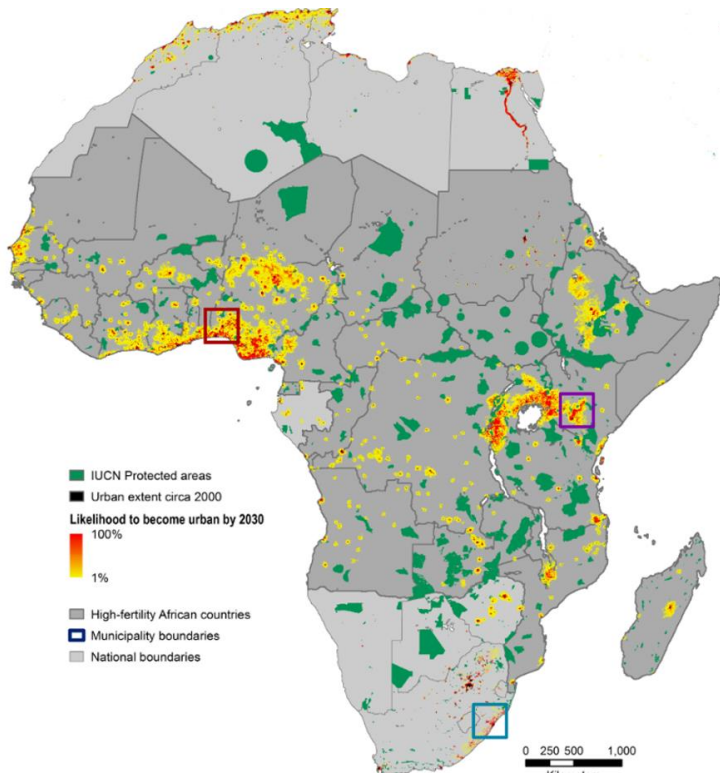
A Glimpse into the Future of Secondary Cities & Towns

- **More urban growth on East and West Africa;**

- **Growth happening more on coastal areas;**

- **West African coast, around L. Victoria & L. Tanganyika;**

- **These zones are *climate change hotspots***

Urban Sanitation Coverage & Trend

Global

SSA
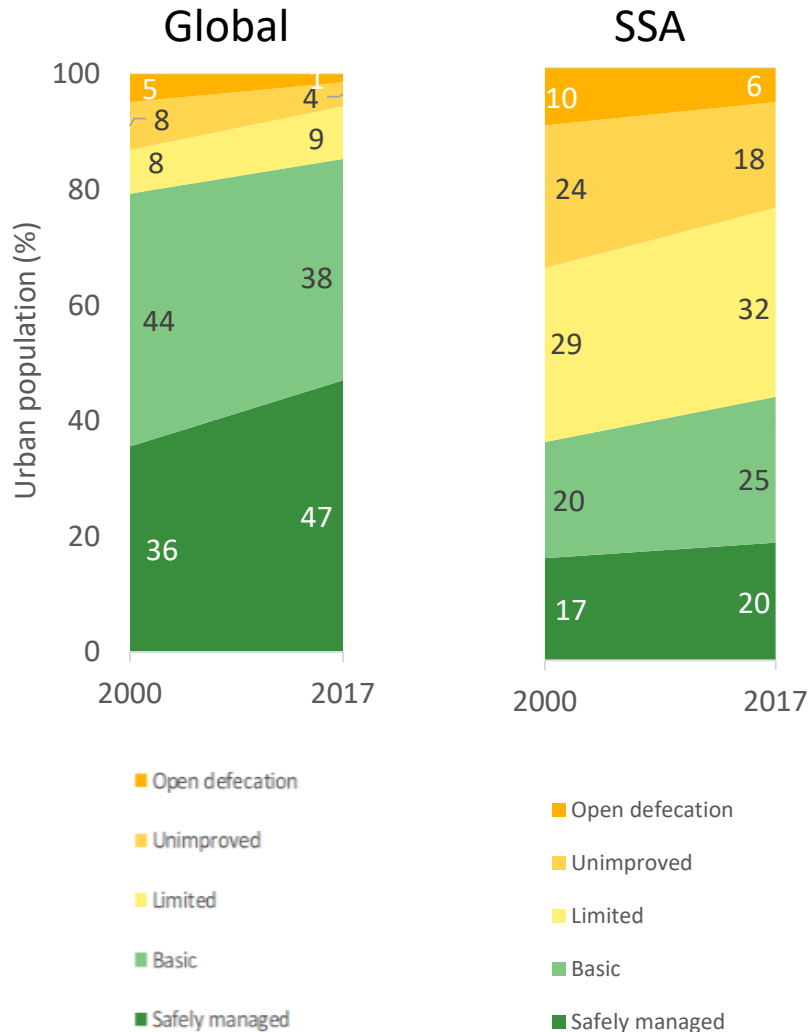
Major Highlights:

- Between 2000 and 2017, increase in population using safely managed and basic sanitation services in SSA.

- Decrease in population defecating in the open.

- In 2017, 44% of the urban population (180 million people) in SSA had access at least basic sanitation.

- 23 million people (6%) still defecating in the open.

Although there is some progress in urban sanitation services,
- **deep inequalities exist across countries and;**
- **large inequalities exist by wealth quintiles**

Sanitation Facility Types (Population): 2000 - 2017
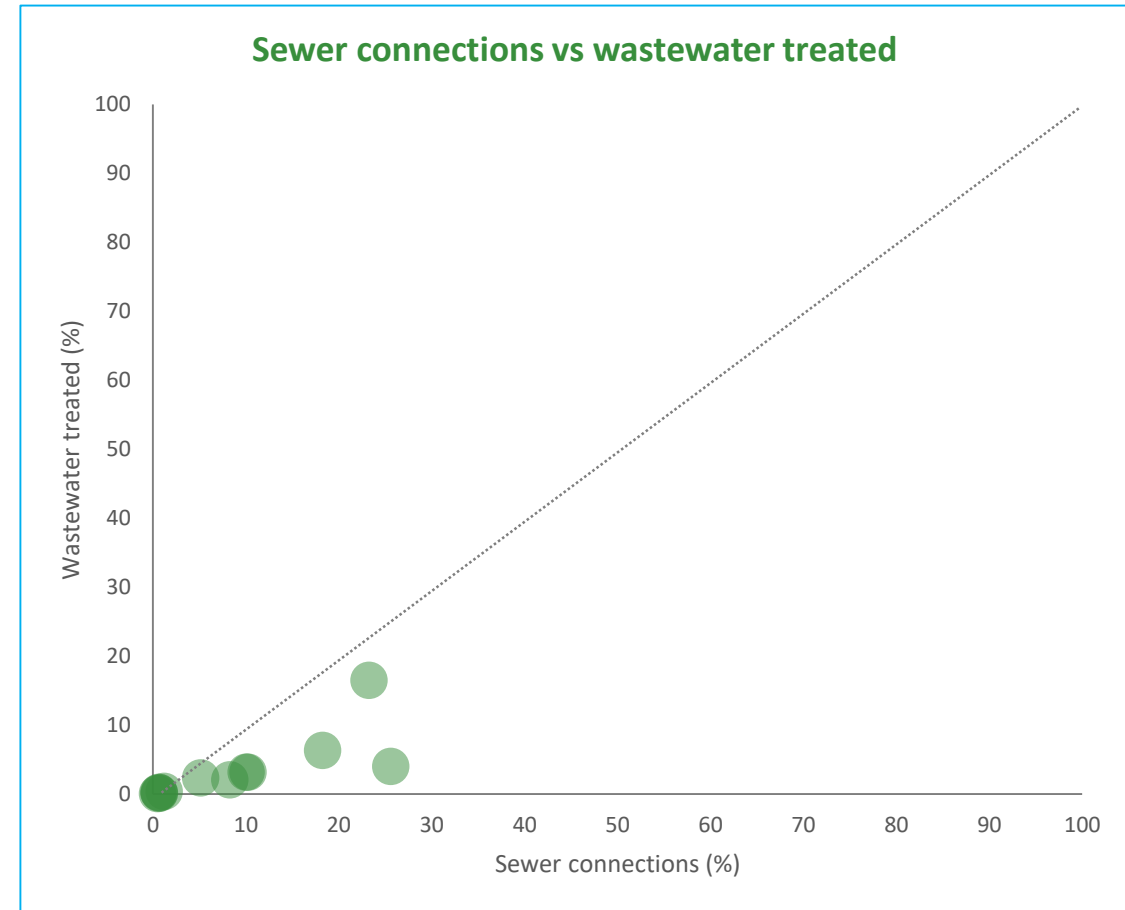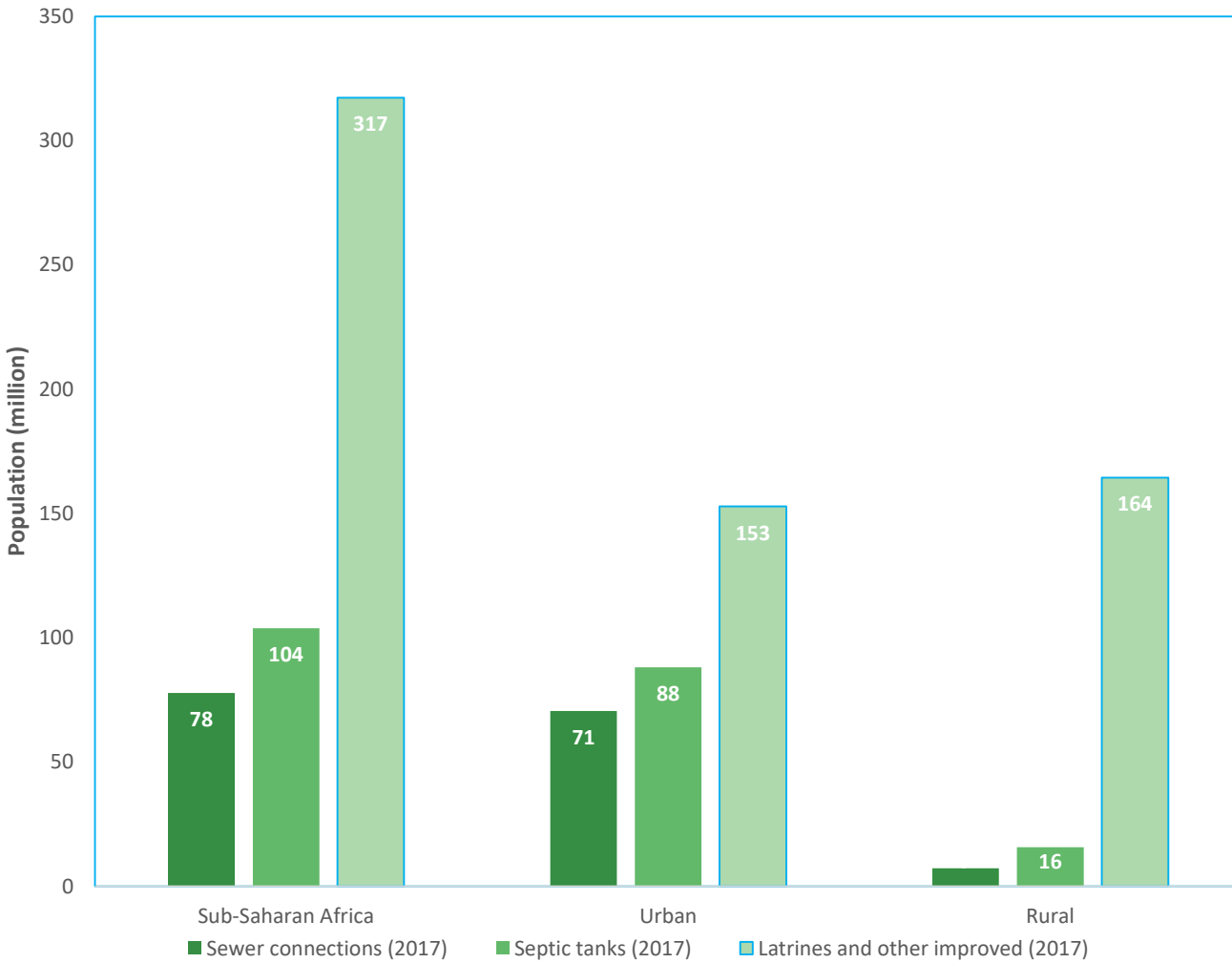
Basic Sanitation by Wealth Quintile (Urban)

Use of basic sanitation - urban (%)

○ Poorest ○ Poor ○ Middle ● Rich ● Richest
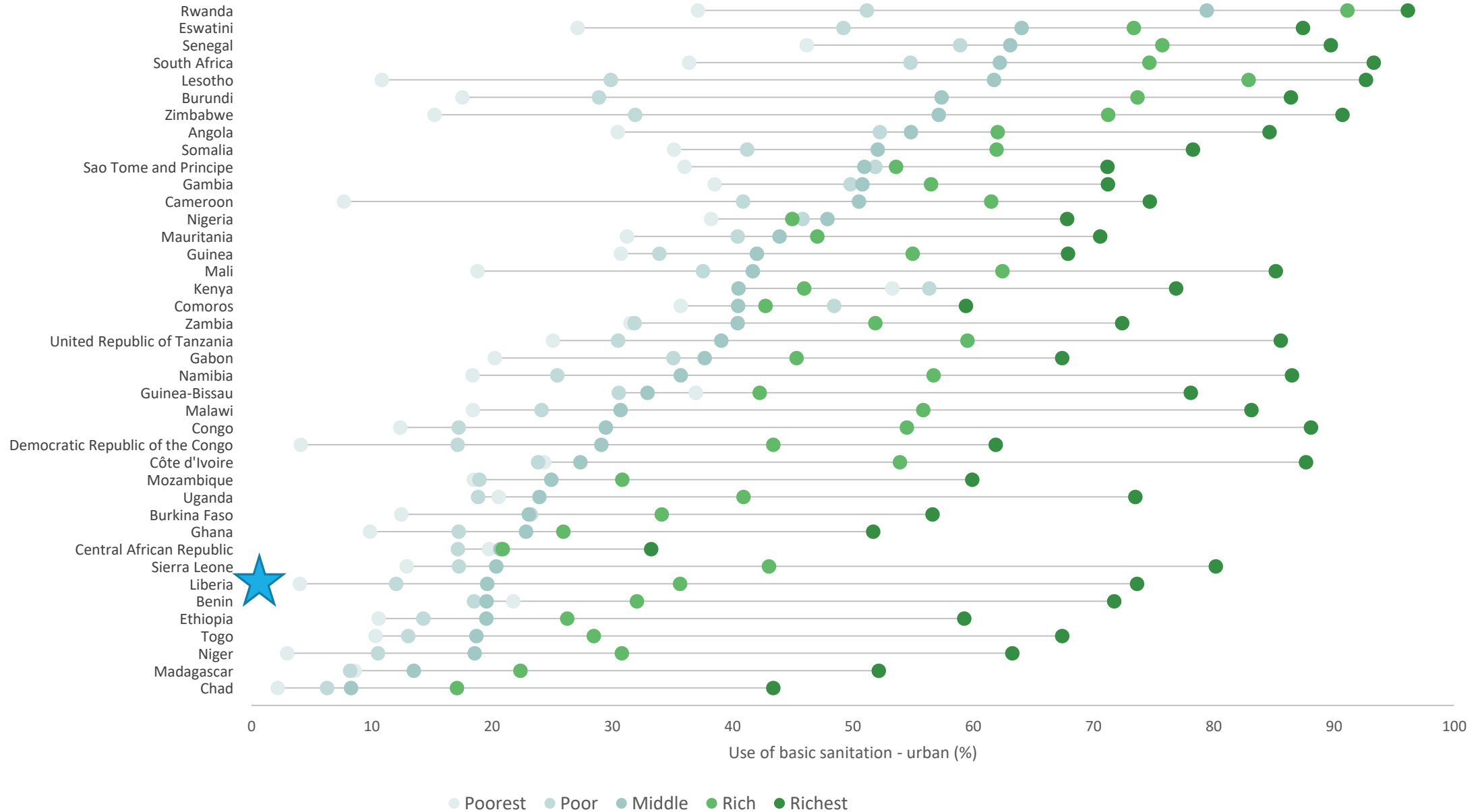
Changes in Basic Sanitation Coverage and Inequalities between richest and poorest by country and residence: 2000 – 2017 (%)
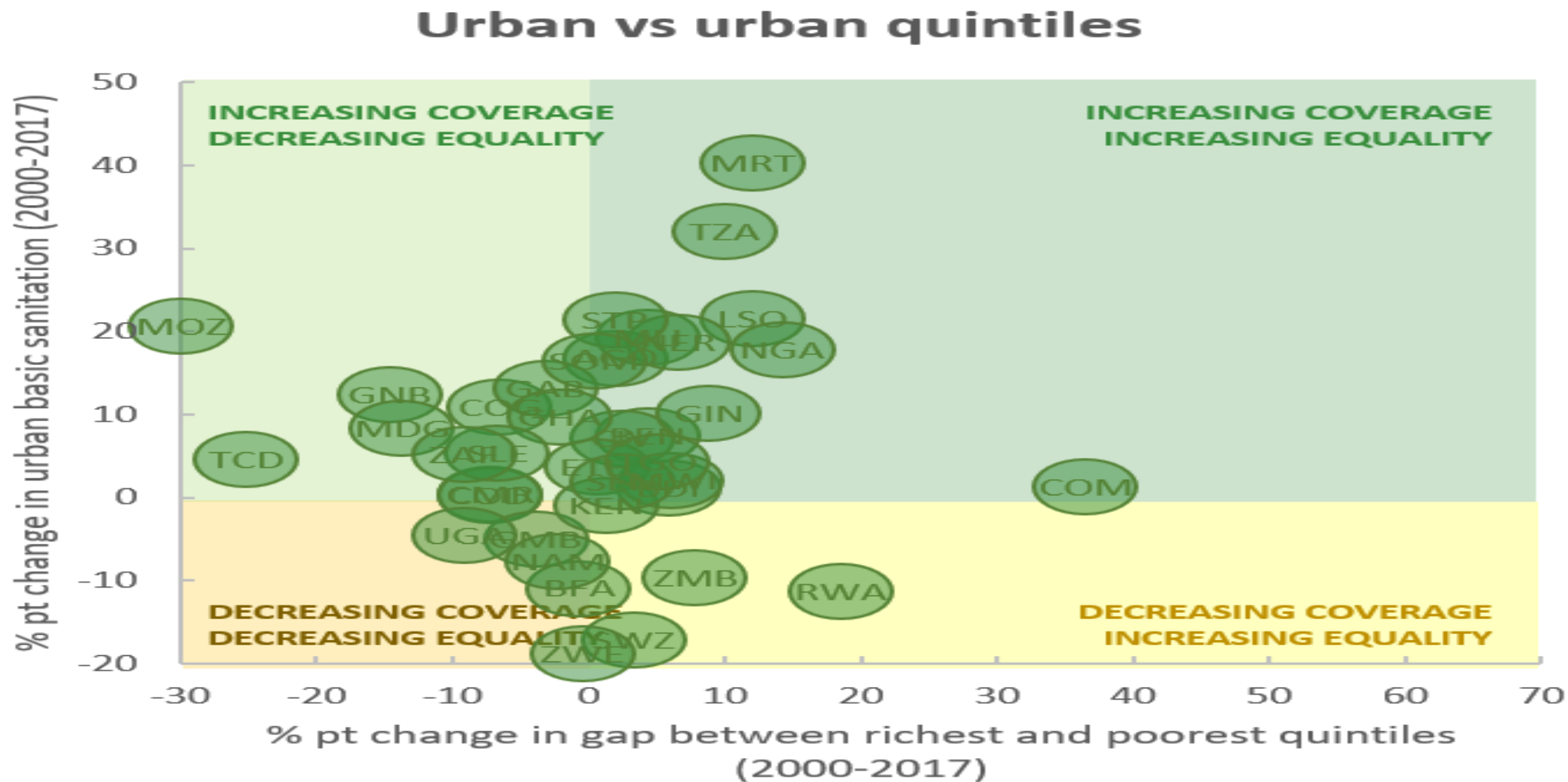
Progress in Sanitation Coverage and Inequalities: 2000 – 2017 (%)

Progress on achieving universal basic sanitation

SDG: Sub-Saharan Africa
Urban

2 countries on track

33 countries insufficient progress

9 countries decreasing coverage

Annual rate of reduction, 2000-2017 Percentage points per year

Proportion of the population using basic sanitation services (%) in 2017
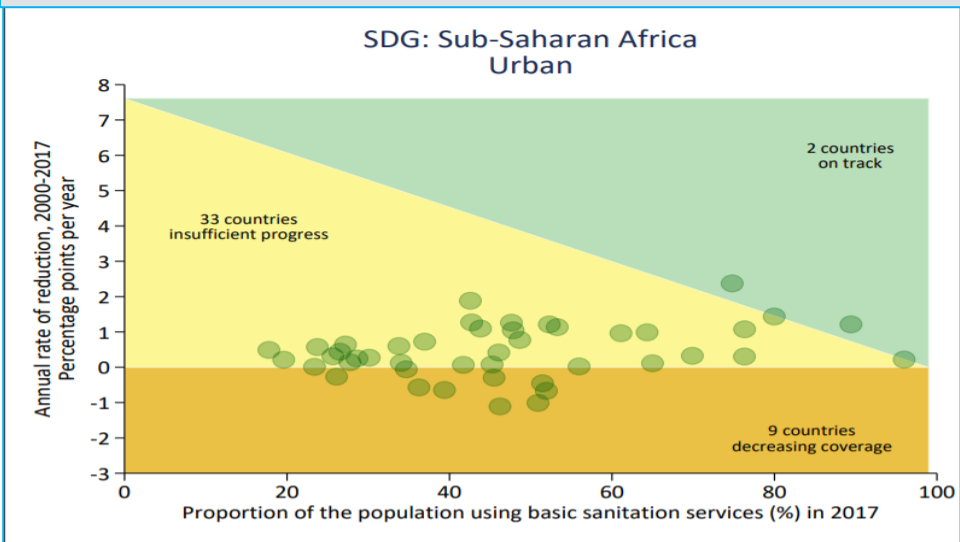
Progress on achieving universal basic sanitation among the poorest urban quintile

SDG: Sub-Saharan Africa
Poorest urban quintile

0 countries on track

28 countries insufficient progress

11 countries decreasing coveragen

Annual rate of reduction, 2000-2017 Percentage points per year

Proportion of the population using basic sanitation services (%) in 2017

Progress on elimination of open defecation

SDG: Sub-Saharan Africa
Urban

13 countries on track

15 countries insufficient progress

8 countries increasing open defecation

Annual rate of reduction, 2000-2017 Percentage points per year

Proportion of the population not practising open defecation (%) in 2017

Progress on elimination of open defecation among the poorest urban quintile

SDG: Sub-Saharan Africa
Poorest urban quintile

8 countries on track

13 countries insufficient progress

14 countries increasing open defecation

Annual rate of reduction, 2000-2017 Percentage points per year

Proportion of the population not practising open defecation (%) in 2017
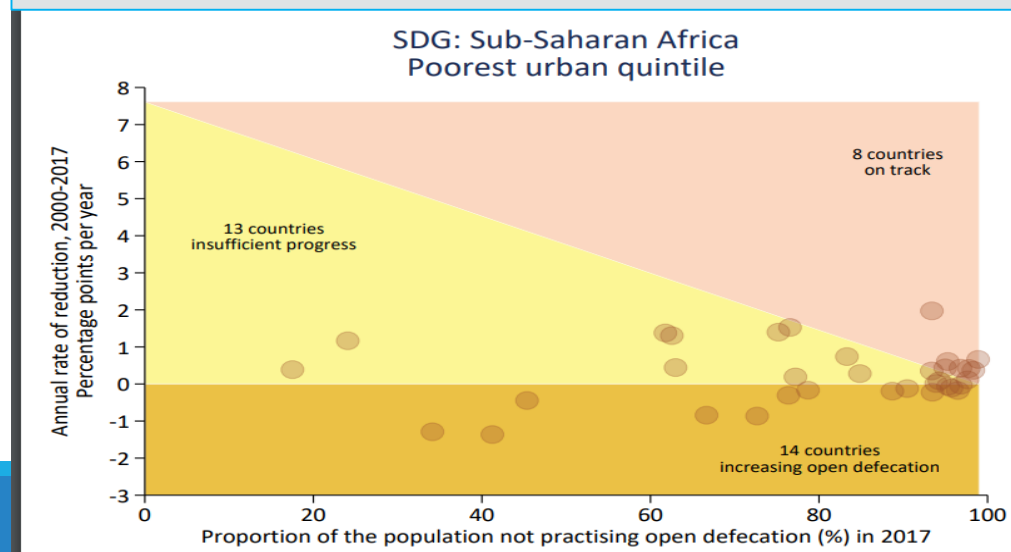
Urban Sanitation Challenges

- Rapid urban population growth and high population density

- The lack of secure land tenure and space for residents in informal urban settlement

- Unequal access to and ineffective coverage of urban WASH services.

- A critical gap for national and global monitoring of safely sanitation services, especially for on-site sanitation systems.

- Limited political will and capacity for planning, funding, and a lack of an enabling policy environment for implementing inclusive urban sanitation services

- Social structures in urban areas are often complex and differ from rural 'norms'.

- The periphery of cities and towns or intra-urban spaces are often where urban refugees, IDPs and migrants are forced to settle.

- The impact of climate change, environmental hazards and natural disasters in urban areas is high, especially in informal settlements

Rationale for UNICEF Engagement in Urban Sanitation

- Growing inequalities in access to sanitation services and challenges of reaching the most vulnerable children wherever they are.

- Human rights and universality of access to sanitation services to achieve SDG objectives and other global commitments;

- UNICEF's core accountability and commitments as provided in UNICEF's strategic plan (2018-2021); and global WASH strategy (2016-2030).

- Humanitarian imperative of responding to WASH emergencies (including sanitation) in urban areas. UNICEF is the global lead for WASH humanitarian response and provider of last resort.

- Public health threat of poor sanitation coverage especially in high density urban areas with poor sanitation services.

UNICEF's Global Framework for Urban WASH

- **Creates a common vision for UNICEF's approach to urban WASH programming.**

- **The framework enables country, regional and global WASH teams to have a clear and shared sense of direction and purpose.**

- **Provides basis for urban WASH engagement across global, regional and country levels.**

- **Define what UNICEF is best-placed to contribute to urban WASH based on its mandate, capacity and comparative advantage.**

UNICEF Global Framework for Urban WASH

UNICEF WASH vision	Realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation

UNICEF Global strategy objectives	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water for all	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

UNICEF urban WASH objective	Equitable access to WASH services for the poor and most vulnerable population in urban areas

Urban context	Urban slums	Small towns	Urban areas in humanitarian and protracted crisis settings
Support type	Sector-level support	Service-level support	User-level support

UNICEF programming approaches	Strengthen enabling environment **SWA building blocks** • Policy & strategy development • Institutional arrangement & coordination • Sector financing • Capacity development • Planning, monitoring & review	Building sustainable markets Leveraging sustainable financial resources Deliver services and supplies	Empower communities Leveraging sustainable financial resources

	Utilise evidence to promote child rights

Thank you

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