

**RWANDA PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU AGENDA
2063.**



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Contents

1. 0 Introduction.....	3
1.1 Country’s brief socio-economic status.....	3
2.0 Key Strategies for implementing Agenda 2063	3
3.0 Country level status on implementation of Agenda 2063	4
3.1 Goal. 1: A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens.	4
3.1.1 Agenda 2063 Priority Area: Incomes, Jobs and decent work	5
3.2 Agenda 2063 Goal. 2: Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation.....	6
3.2.1 Agenda 2063 Priority Area: Education and STI skills driven revolution	6
3.3 Agenda 2063 Goal.3: Healthy and well Nourished Citizens	7
3.4 Agenda 2063 Goal.7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.....	8
3.4.1 Agenda 2063 Priority Area: Climate resilience and natural disasters preparedness	8
3.5 Agenda 2063 Goal. 11: Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched.	9
3.6. Agenda 2063 Goal. 13: Peace Security and stability are preserved.....	10
3.6.1 Priority Area: Maintenance and restoration of peace and security	11
3.7. Agenda 2063 Goal. 17: Full Gender Equality in all spheres of life	11
3.7. 1. Women socio-economic Empowerment	11
3.8 Agenda 2063 Goal.20: Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development	12
3.8.1 Priority Areas: Fiscal systems and public sector revenue, development assistance and Partnerships.....	12
4.1 Opportunities.....	13
4.1.1 The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	13
4.1.2 The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)	13
4.1.3 The Free Movement of Persons and the African Passport.....	14
4.2 Challenges.....	14
4.2.2 High unemployment rates	14
4.2.3 High poverty levels	14
5. Lessons learned.....	14
6. Conclusion	15
Annex. Implementation Progress on Core Indicators of AU Agenda 2063 Core Indicators (Refer to different Excel File).....	15

1. 0 Introduction

This report provides a brief status on the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 in Rwanda. It highlights key achievements, related policy interventions, underlying challenges and lessons learned among others.

An annex showing specific status for each of the core indicators of the first ten-year implementation plan of the Agenda 2063 is attached for further reference. The assessment is based on the African Union dashboard scores that covers progress undertaken between 2013 as the base year and 2019¹ that captures the latest progress.

1.1 Country's brief socio-economic status

Rwanda is located in the east central Africa with an estimated population of over twelve million.

The country has registered rapid economic growth and macroeconomic stability with an average growth rate of 8% over the past fifteen years and GDP per capita has increased from USD 225 in 2000 to USD 787 in 2018.

Poverty has also substantially reduced from 60.4% in 2000 to 38.2% in 2017 and extreme poverty reduced from 40% to 16% over the same period.

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births reduced from 107 to 32 between 2000 and 2015 and maternal and child mortality per 100,000 deaths from 1,071 to 210 and from 196 to 50 respectively.

83.3% of the population have access to healthcare through the community based health insurance (CBHI).

As a result of improved livelihood due to the sustained inclusive economic growth, life expectancy has increased from 49 in 2000 to 67 in 2017.

2.0 Key Strategies for implementing Agenda 2063

Rwanda's development planning framework embraced a holistic approach by domesticating different development agendas it adopted into her long-term and medium term development plans and strategies which consequently guides annual planning and budgeting. These include the regional, continental and global development agendas highlighted below;

¹ Where 2019 data was not available, the latest available data was used

- a) The African Union Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan
- b) The East African Community Vision 2050
- c) The UN Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030.

The above agendas were domesticated during the elaboration of the Country’s Medium Term Development Strategy, the National Strategy for Transformation, NST 1 (2017-2024) and related sector and district development strategies as well as the Vision 2050.

The NST 1 concludes the current Vision 2020 and ushers in the Vision 2050 and provides the main avenue for the implementation of the National priorities through concerted efforts of different players i.e. Government, development partners, Civil Society and faith based organizations, Private Sector as well as citizen participation through a range of home grown solutions.

3.0 Country level status on implementation of Agenda 2063

As per the African Union dashboard for the implementation of the Agenda 2063’s first ten-year implementation plan, the country has an **overall score of 73%**.

The sections below provide a brief narrative for the implementation of selected goals of the African Union Agenda 2063, drivers and the related priority areas or strategic interventions laid out in the country’s *National Strategy for Transformation, NST 1 (2017-2024)*.

3.1 Goal. 1: A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens.

Agenda 2063 Dashboard Score: 81%

- ❖ NST 1 related Priority areas and interventions.
 - Create 1.5 million decent and productive jobs for economic development between 2017 and 2024 (over 214,000 annually).
 - Promote Industrialization and attain a structural shift in the export base to high-value goods and services with the aim of growing exports by 17% annually.
 - Moving towards a modern Rwandan Household.

The key contributors to the above score for this goal are mainly the sustained inclusive growth characterized by reduction in the unemployment rates as well as increased access to social services such as access to safe drinking water currently at 87.4% of the population. The section below explains the progress and drivers under goal one of the Agenda 2063.

3.1.1 Agenda 2063 Priority Area: Incomes, Jobs and decent work

Sustained Inclusive Growth

Between 2000 and 2018, GDP per capita increased from 225 USD in 2000 to 787 USD in 2018. GDP grew at an average of 7.9 percent per year over the same period while in 2018, Rwanda's economy grew by 8.6 percent, thanks to strong performance in the agriculture sector, which grew by 6 percent, industry which grew by 10 percent (mainly due to high growth in construction and manufacturing sectors), and the services sector that grew by 9 percent.

Rwanda is targeting to double the tourism revenues to USD 800 million by 2024 from USD 374 million in 2016 through promotion of meetings, incentives conferences and events (MICE) and Visit Rwanda initiatives among others.

Poverty reduced from 60.4% in 2000 to 38.2% in 2017 and extreme poverty from 40% to 16% over the same period. Inequality also reduced from 0.522 in 2005/6 to 0.496 in 2017. Multi-dimensional poverty has also reduced from 0.461 in 2005/6 to 0.266 in 2017.

Employment and labour force participation

Unemployment rate fell from 18.8 percent in 2016 to 15.1 percent in 2018, while youth unemployment remains higher than average, at 18.7 percent as of December 2018 (down from 21.5 percent in 2016).

Overall labour force participation increased from 50.6 percent in 2016 to 54.2 percent in 2018.

Progress is mainly attributed to strong pro-employment macro-economic fundamentals as well as initiatives such as workplace learning that aim at equipping the workforce with hands on skills and the National Employment Programme (NEP) which was introduced to increase productive jobs through better planning and coordination of employment initiatives and entrepreneurship promotion programs for increased results among others.

The current unemployment rates are however still high and will need to be reduced and controlled through well coordinated multi-sectoral interventions.

The Government of Rwanda through the National Strategy for Transformation (NST 1) targets to create over 1.5 million decent and productive jobs by 2024. To realize this ambition, on 7th June 2019, Cabinet approved the Revised National Employment Policy & its implementation plan as well as the National Skills Development & Employment Promotion Strategy (2019-2024).

The Revised National Employment Policy will drive the implementation of other policies, strategies, programmes and interventions that generate job opportunities for Rwandans. The Strategy aims at strengthening effective coordination of skills development and employment promotion initiatives undertaken by Government agencies and its partners to realize the ambitious job creation targets.

Improved Household Livelihood

Access to safe drinking water increased from 84.8% in 2013/14 to 87.4% in 2017/18 while the percentage of households with improved sanitation increased from 83.4% to 86.2% over the same period.

The key challenge remains with high levels of stunting at 38% among children. However, interventions such as establishment of early childhood development centers (ECDs) as well as implementation of the multi-sectoral plan for eradication of extreme poverty and malnutrition form critical elements of the NST 1 in the bid to address the challenge.

3.2 Agenda 2063 Goal. 2: Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation.

Agenda 2063 Dashboard Score: 100%

- ❖ NST 1 related Priority area and interventions.
 - Enhancing the demographic dividend through improved access to quality education
 - Promotion of Science, Technology, engineering and mathematics across all levels of education
 - Promoting technical and vocational and Training with the target of proportion of students pursuing TVET reaching 60% by 2024.

Increase in the enrollment rates in primary as well as improvements in the number of qualified teachers with a focus on STEM were among the main contributors to the above score at 100%.

3.2.1 Agenda 2063 Priority Area: Education and STI skills driven revolution

Rwanda has made significant gains in education, increasing the years of free education up to 12 and improving the enrolment rates for primary education.

Rwanda has also worked on eliminating gender disparities in education. In 2018, gender parity had been stabilized, with girl's enrolment at 49.7 percent and 53.2 percent in primary and secondary levels respectively, while that of tertiary education was estimated at 42.6 percent.

Female enrolment in TVET Level 1 to 7 increased from 41.8 percent in 2015 to 43.8 percent in 2018. In regard to capacity of teachers, 2,528 teachers, one from each Rwandan public school, have increased their capacity to implement inclusive education and deliver inclusive pedagogical approaches.

A total of 6,227 pre-service teachers (3,105 in 2018 and 3,122 in 2019) were trained on inclusive education and inclusive pedagogical approaches before starting their teaching career and being appointed to primary schools countrywide.

Further efforts will continue to be invested towards human capital development where the country still experiences gaps. For instance, according to the 2017 World Bank Human Capital Index, Rwanda ranked 142nd out of the 157 countries.

In addition, net enrollment rates in preprimary (nursery) are still low but strategies are underway to increase access from 20.8% in 2018 to 45% by 2024.

3.3 Agenda 2063 Goal.3: Healthy and well Nourished Citizens

- ❖ **Agenda 2063 Dashboard score: 100%**
- ❖ NST 1 related Priority area and interventions.
 - Enhancing demographic dividend through ensuring access to quality health for all.
 - Improving Maternal and Child Health
 - Strengthening disease prevention awareness and reduction of communicable and non-communicable diseases
 - Scaling up efforts to raise awareness on reproductive health and family planning

The main drivers for the goal score are reduction in child and maternal mortality rates. Rwanda has made impressive gains in health, placing the country as one of the few in Africa to achieve the MDGs health targets, with a steady decline in maternal mortality, from 1,071/100,000 (2000) to 210 (2014/15) (Figure 11, indicator 3.1.1).

The results are due primarily to the Government's concerted investments in building a comprehensive health system. Consequently, care starting with the first prenatal visit to antenatal care is now almost universal (99 percent, DHS 2015) and over 90 percent of women have skilled assistance during delivery.

The fertility rate has declined significantly, from 6.1 births per woman of childbearing age in 2005 to 4.2 in 2014/15, with rural women having almost one child more than urban women (4.3 and 3.6, respectively) (DHS5).

New HIV infections have also decreased substantially, from 2.7/1000 in 2013/14 (RAIHIS 2013) to 0.08/per person/year (Rwanda Population HIV Assessment Report 2019). Access to Anti-retroviral treatment for eligible population with HIV has increased from 78.2% in 2014 to 97.5% (Rwanda Population HIV Assessment 2019). This improvement is mainly due to Treat All policy and index testing partner notification strategy to identify & enroll new HIV positive cases that the Government of Rwanda adopted and implemented since July 1st 2016.

Tuberculosis incidence has been reduced almost by half from 98/100,000 in 2008 to 58 in 2016/17 (Health Sector Strategic Plan IV: http://moh.gov.rw/fileadmin/templates/Docs/FINALH_2-1.pdf).

3.4 Agenda 2063 Goal.7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.

- ❖ **Agenda 2063 Dashboard score: 100%**
- ❖ NST 1 related Priority area and interventions.
 - Promote sustainable management of Natural Resources and Environment to transition Rwanda towards a green Economy
 - Continuing to strengthen forest management and ensure their sustainable exploitation working with the private sector
 - Halve the number of households depending on firewood as a source energy for cooking from 79.9% in 2016 to 42% by 2024.

The increase in the percentage of agricultural land under sustainable land management practice contributed to the above impressive score as per the dashboard. The section below highlights the country's priorities under the following Agenda 2063 priority area.

3.4.1 Agenda 2063 Priority Area: Climate resilience and natural disasters preparedness

Rwanda promotes all dimensions of sustainable development including preservation of the environment. As such, the key Vision 2020 target of 30% of land area covered by forests has been surpassed with the current status of 30.4%.

The Government of Rwanda is among the countries that have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and among the first to sign and ratify both the Paris Agreement COP21 and the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

To reach this goal, Rwanda has developed and implemented the first Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS).

In addition, the Government of Rwanda has developed its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which is a global coalition of countries and institutions working to enhance co-operation and mobilize support and achieve ambitious climate goals while enhancing sustainable development. In this regards, NDC Partnership Plan was developed in collaboration with sectors and other stakeholders, and validated in November 2018, which attracted World Bank support of \$US500, 000 to advance its implementation.

Mainstreaming of environment and climate change aspects into all national policies and programs has gained momentum in Rwanda. For example, environmental impact assessments are part of project feasibility studies. In addition, checklists for sectoral environmental assessments are issued each fiscal year to guide Central and Local government institutions in mainstreaming environment and climate change into annual planning cycles.

Furthermore, the National Climate and Environment Fund (FONERWA) was created in 2012 to respond to Rwanda's current and future needs for environment- and climate change-related financing to further support and accelerate goals of sustainable economic development.

The National Disaster Management Policy has been revised in line with the Sendai Framework, a shift towards more integrated and anticipatory disaster risk management system in Rwanda.

3.5 Agenda 2063 Goal. 11: Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched.

Agenda 2063 Dashboard score: 100%

- ❖ NST 1 related Priority area and interventions.
 - Strengthen justice, law and order
 - Intensify efforts to prevent and fight corruption
 - Improve access to quality justice and enhance alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
 - Strengthen capacity, Service delivery and accountability of public institutions.

Increase in the percentage of people who believe that there are effective mechanisms and oversight institutions to hold their leaders accountable, people who perceive that there is freedom of the press, and people who believe that the elections are free, fair and transparent led to the progress of this goal being achieved at 100%.

Rwanda signed and ratified the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in 2010 and submitted her initial report in May 2019.

The report shows various avenues through which the country has domesticated the charter including;

- Governance, rule of law and human rights
- Culture of Democracy and peace
- Institutions promoting democracy such as the Rwanda Governance Board, Gender Monitoring Office, Rwanda Youth Council, National Women Council, National Council for People with Disabilities.
- Democratic elections.

Related progress is briefly highlighted in the following priority areas;

3.5.1 Priority Area: Democratic values and practices are the norm

Culture of Democracy, Equality and Accountability

Rwanda's Constitution and other relevant legal instruments establish institutions, mechanisms and frameworks that promote the culture of democracy and peace in the country. Examples of such institutions include; the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC), the National Electoral Commission, the National Commission for Human Rights, National Consultative Forum of Political Organizations (NFPO), Rwanda Governance Board, Gender Monitoring Office, Office of the Ombudsman among others. These promote and entrench Governance and accountability principles through education, sensitization, monitoring and oversight roles.

Human rights, justice and the rule of law

Rwanda is committed to its zero tolerance to corruption. In this regard, the Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index rated Rwanda as the 48th least corrupt nation globally, fourth in Africa, and first in East Africa.

According to the Rwanda Governance Score card of 2019, the rule of law was ranked at 84.7%.

Citizen participation

Citizen participation and home-grown solutions such as *Imihigo* (performance contracts) and *Umuganda* (where communities come together to perform activities of public interest) have been key to Rwanda's socio-economic development.

Innovations like the *Rwanda Governance Scorecard* and the *Citizen Report Card* have further enhanced citizens' participation and demand for accountability.

The National strategy for Transformation (2017-2024) aims at promoting Home Grown Solutions including raising awareness both locally and internationally to support socio-economic development.

3.6. Agenda 2063 Goal. 13: Peace Security and stability are preserved

Agenda 2063 Dashboard score: 100%

- ❖ NST 1 related Priority area and interventions.
 - Ensure safety and security of citizens and property e.g. through strengthening the capacity of all security organs
 - Strengthen diplomatic and international cooperation to accelerate Rwanda and Africa's development.
 - Strive for unity of Africans and development of the continent
 - Continue contributing to peace and security in Africa and globally

3.6.1 Priority Area: Maintenance and restoration of peace and security

Rwanda is committed to maintain peace and security both at home as well as outside the country.

According to the Rwanda Governance Score card of 2019, a citizen perception survey, safety and security scored 94.29%, National security scored 99.9%, personal and property safety 91.8%, Reconciliation, Social Cohesion and unity scored 93.99% in terms of citizen satisfaction. These reflect the levels of citizens' satisfaction and confidence with regard to safety and security of their lives and property.

Related to promotion of peace and security on the continent and globally, Rwanda is currently the second troops and Police Contributing country in international peacekeeping missions, Rwanda Defense Force maintains 5,860 personnel including troops, staff officers, military observers and liaison officers in peacekeeping missions, and the Rwanda National Police (RNP) – which has about 1,200 officers serving as peacekeepers in different countries. Generally, Rwandan contingents serving the UN peacekeeping, particularly in Africa, have demonstrated a high level of professionalism, dedication, and courage.

3.7. Agenda 2063 Goal. 17: Full Gender Equality in all spheres of life

Agenda 2063 Dashboard score 100%

- ❖ NST 1 related Priority area and interventions.
 - Gender and family promotion is one of the cross cutting areas for the National strategy for Transformation.
 - Continuing to facilitate women to access finance
 - Mainstream gender in in employment and job creation
 - Fighting Gender Based Violence

The key contributors to the above achievement score include increase in women in agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land and seats held by women in national parliament among others.

3.7. 1. Women socio-economic Empowerment

Article 10 of Rwanda's constitution emphasizes the fundamental principles upheld by the Country that includes equality of all Rwandans and between men and women which is affirmed by women occupying at least thirty percent (30%) of positions in decision-making organs.

In addition to the constitutional provision, other legal instruments and policies have been established to promote women empowerment.

For instance, the land law of 2013 and the revised Land policy all prohibit all forms of discrimination such as that based on gender in relation to access to land. As such Married couples who own land represent 59.99% while women alone who own land represent 24.63%.

Women representation in decision making positions stands at 47% overall with 61.3% women representation in parliament, 35.7% district mayors and 45% members in district councils.

Rwanda also established the Business Development Fund (BDF) which provides guarantee of up to 75% to women and youth and 50% to men.

3.8 Agenda 2063 Goal.20: Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development

- ❖ **Agenda 2063 Dashboard score: 52%**
- ❖ NST 1 related Priority area and interventions.
 - Increase citizens' participation, engagement and partnerships in development.
 - Strengthening Resource Mobilization Capacities including Development of Capital Markets, Innovative financing, strengthening public finance management and promoting partnerships.

3.8.1 Priority Areas: Fiscal systems and public sector revenue, development assistance and Partnerships.

Rwanda has continued to implement its policy of self-reliance by financing a large share of its budget from domestic resources. The share of the domestic budget funded by domestic revenues and loans increased from 55 percent in 2005 to 84 percent in 2018/19.

Remittance inflows to Rwanda increased from USD 181.91 million in 2016/17 to USD 232.17 million in 2017/18.

The country is implementing a ten-year Capital Market Development Master Plan (2018-2024) aimed at mobilizing long term sources of finance.

To strengthen South-South cooperation, the Government of Rwanda established and operationalized a private company, the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI) in September 2018.

The mandate of RCI is to promote home-grown solutions and coordinate peer learning related to country experiences and progress in areas such as business reforms, public finance management, unity and reconciliation, and strengthening governance systems.

Rwanda also hosts the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa, SDG/CA mandated to build capacities for delivery of SDGs on the continent.

4. Opportunities and Challenges

4.1 Opportunities

Regional integration and international cooperation will continue to offer wider markets, promote intra Africa trade and boost economic growth and prosperity. The following sections highlight the AU Flagship projects with huge potential opportunities as well as Rwanda's progress regarding their implementation.

4.1.1 The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area is one of the Agenda 2063 Flagship Projects that has made tremendous progress.

The project targets to double intra-Africa trade by 2022, strengthening Africa's common voice and policy space in international trade negotiations and accelerating the establishment of the continental financial institutions.

The AfCFTA agreement was officially signed on 21st March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, together with Protocols on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and on Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes and Rwanda ratified the protocol in 2018.²

The AfCFTA secretariat was approved to be in Accra Ghana during the 12th AU Extraordinary Summit held in Niamey, Niger on 7th July 2019.³

4.1.2 The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)

In January 2015, the Union Assembly adopted the Declaration on the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). SAATM was officially launched on 29th January 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during the 30th AU Ordinary Summit.

SAATM is a flagship project under the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, an initiative of the African Union to create a single unified air transport market in Africa to advance the liberalization of civil aviation in Africa and act as an impetus to the continent's economic integration agenda.

In addition to signing the Solemn Commitment to establishment of the SAATM, Rwanda is among the sixteen countries to have signed the Memorandum of Implementation (MOI) aimed at harmonizing all Bilateral Air Services Agreement between members of the Single African Air Transport Market in order to ensure compliance with the Yamoussoukro Decision.

² Trade & Industry e-newsletter

³ Africa [news](#)

4.1.3 The Free Movement of Persons and the African Passport

AU's Agenda 2063 identified the free movement of persons and the African passport as one of its flagship initiatives, which aims to remove the restrictions on Africans' ability to travel and work. Free movement of people is crucial to the advancement of socio-economic development and integration of the continent through the promotion of inter-African trade. The aim is to have a borderless continent to enhance free movement of all African citizens with African common passport.

During the July 2016 AU Summit in Kigali, the assembly officially launched the common, electronic, biometric African passport that will facilitate free movement of persons across Africa.

Adopted in 2018, it has already been signed by 32 Member States. The Guidelines on the Design, Production and Issuance of the African Passport have also been adopted by the AU policy organs in February 2019.

4.2 Challenges

4.2.2 High unemployment rates

The high unemployment rates especially among the youth poses a great challenge attracting negative vices such as drug abuse. Interventions are however in place to create more jobs as well as empower the youth create their own jobs.

4.2.3 High poverty levels

Despite remarkable progress registered, poverty levels are still high. This will require substantial resources to support implementation of projects, programs and policies to create opportunities for citizens to escape poverty, increase their resilience to shocks and improve their livelihoods.

5. Lessons learned

1. ***Visionary leadership***, effective governance, and accountability are critical towards the realization of the Africa we want. This has been evidenced in the achievements registered in just two decades.
2. ***Home-Grown Solutions*** rooted in the Rwandan culture (African values) are resource-efficient and play a major role in enhancing ownership and accelerating development outcomes. A critical example here is the contribution of Umuganda (community work) and Girinka (one cow per family) towards the socio-economic progress of the country.
3. ***Full integration*** of the numerous development agenda (Agenda 2063, EAC Vision 2050 and the UN SDGs) in the national planning and monitoring framework is critical for effective implementation.

6. Conclusion

The Agenda 2063 and its first ten-year implementation plan provides a key avenue towards the realization of the Africa we want.

In line with the lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the domestication of the Agenda 2063 in National plans both in planning and as well as monitoring will greatly contribute to the delivery of the Agenda at country level.

[Annex. Implementation Progress on Core Indicators of AU Agenda 2063 Core Indicators \(Refer to different Excel File\)](#)

