Sub-Saharan Africa

Leaving no patient behind

In 2019, we established a dedicated organization to reach more patients in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), which is home to the largest underserved population in the world. While many African countries have made remarkable progress in preventing childhood mortality, the continent faces the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The SSA unit is supporting a One Novartis approach to doing business in Africa and is deploying innovative approaches to increase patient reach, taking a high-volume, lower-price approach.

Geographically, the region is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, grouping the 46 countries that make up SSA into four distinct clusters.
East Africa Cluster

Headquartered in Nairobi Kenya, EAC comprises of nine countries namely:

- Burundi
- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Sudan
- Eritrea
- Djibouti
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Tanzania

Facts and figures
Population: 345.9 million
Languages spoken in EAC: 348
Average age: 19.7

Interesting facts:
- Renowned for its magical safaris, wildlife and vast Savannah. It hosts the Great Wildebeest Migration looping Kenya and Tanzania
- Home to some of the world’s best athletes such as Kipchoge Keino, Haile Gebrselassie Paul Tergat, Tegla Loroupe, Kenenisa Bekele, Tirunesh Dibaba, Eliud Kipchoge to mention a few
- Hosts the world’s largest desert lake (Lake Turkana in Northern Kenya) and the world’s largest tropical lake (Lake Victoria, connecting Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania)
- Holds the world’s third tea producer (Kenya) and fifth coffee producer (Ethiopia)

English West Africa Cluster

The cluster comprises of four countries, with its headquarters based in Accra, Ghana. They include:

- Ghana
- Liberia
- Sierra Leone
- Nigeria

Facts and figures
Population: 249.77 million
Languages spoken in EWA: 658
Average age: 19.6

Interesting facts:
- Famous for its film industry, particularly Nollywood in Nigeria
- Legendary for rich and spicy foods
- Well-known for its cultural vibrancy depicted in colorful African attire and lavish ceremonies such as weddings
French West Africa Cluster

FWCA is the largest cluster consisting of 18 countries, with its headquarters located in Abidjan, Ivory Coast:

Interesting facts:
• Highly influenced by French culture in its cuisine, art and fashion
• Avid soccer lovers
• The cluster hosts the Congo Basin, which is the world's second-largest tropical rainforest
• There are vast reserves of natural resources such as cobalt (The DRC has the largest cobalt reserves in the world), gold, diamonds, petroleum and cocoa beans (Ivory Coast is the world's largest producer of cocoa beans)

Facts and figures
Population: 269.2 million
Languages spoken in FWCA: 1,277
Average age: 19
Southern Africa Cluster

There are 15 countries in the cluster headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa. They include:

- Lesotho
- Eswatini
- Mozambique
- Malawi
- Sa Tome and Principe
- Equatorial Guinea
- Madagascar
- Mauritius
- Comoros
- Seychelles
- Angola
- Zambia
- Namibia
- Botswana
- Zimbabwe

Facts and figures

Population: 157.7 million
Languages spoken in SAC: 198
Average age: 22

Interesting facts:

- Awe-inspiring landscape with many rivers and lakes meandering across countries. It hosts the world’s largest man-made lake (Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe) and Lake Victoria waterfall, the world’s largest sheet of falling water
- The world’s largest elephant population can be found in Botswana while Namibia is home to one of the world’s highest dunes
- Rich in mineral and metals such as diamonds, aluminum, platinum and copper

Resources

1. Rapid Urbanization in Africa: Investing in the Development of Africa’s Cities (worldbank.org)
2. World Bank Global Economic Prospects