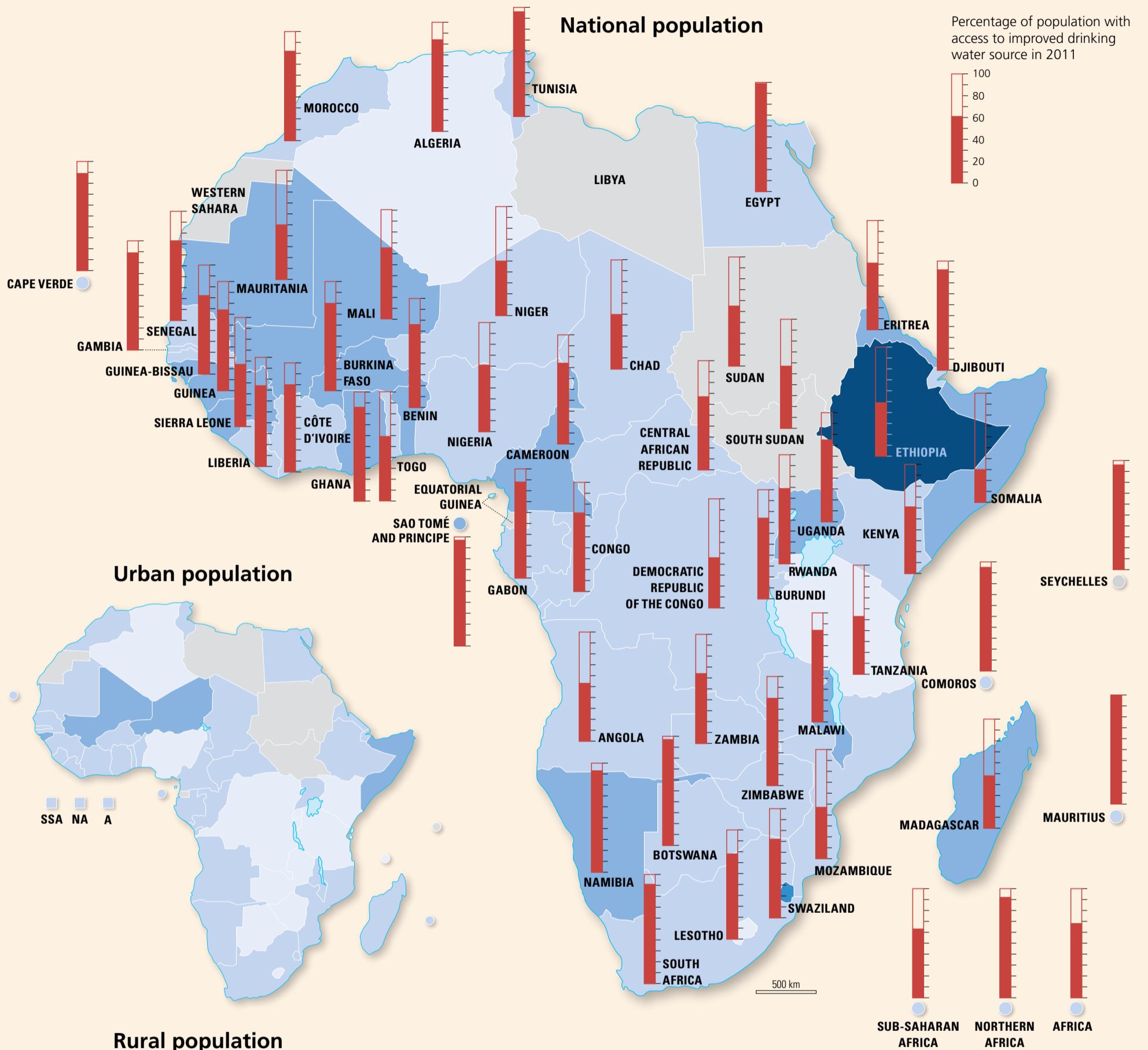


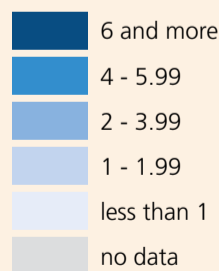
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Drinking water in Africa

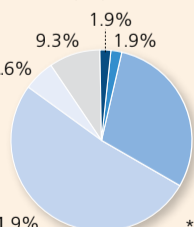
Access to improved drinking water source and improvement index



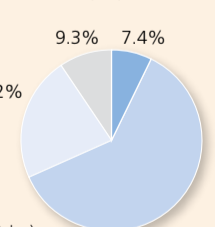
Improvement index



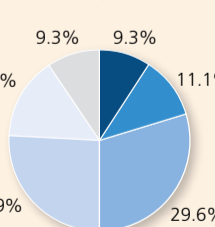
Total population*



Urban population*



Rural population*



Source: WHO/UNICEF (2013), Progress on sanitation and drinking-water: 2013 update, 14-35, Geneva / New York: World Health Organization / United Nations Children's Fund.

This information was compiled by Dick Foeken, Marcel Rutten and Nel de Vink

The columns on the big map shows the percentage of the population that had access to an improved drinking water source in 2011. An improved drinking water source is defined as "one that, by the nature of its construction, adequately protects the source from outside contamination, particularly faecal matter" (WHO/UNICEF 2013, p. 12). This includes either piped water on a person's own premises or "other improved water sources" (public taps or standpipes, tube wells or boreholes, protected dug wells, protected springs or rainwater collection facilities).

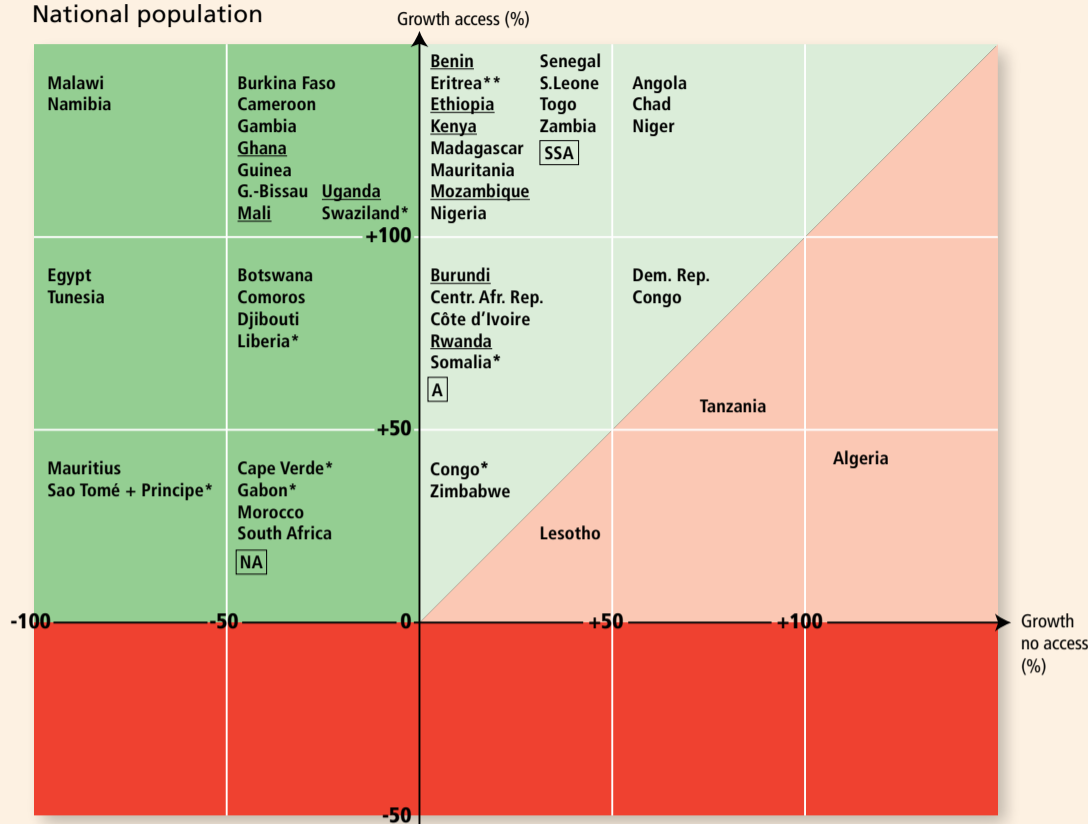
The **improvement index** is the percentage growth of the population with access to an improved drinking water source divided by the percentage growth of the population in the period between 1990 and 2011. In countries with an index of less than 1, population growth is higher than the growth of access to an improved drinking water source. In terms of shading on the three maps, the darker the blue, the higher the improvement index, i.e. the better the country's performance regarding the provision of safe drinking water.

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Drinking water in Africa

Access and no access to improved drinking water source

National population



positive growth 'access', negative growth 'no access'
 positive growth 'access' > positive growth 'no access'
 positive growth 'access' ≤ positive growth 'no access'
 negative growth 'access'

Underlined : focus country of Dutch development assistance
 * 2000 - 2011
 ** 1990 - 2008
 [A] Africa [NA] Northern Africa [SSA] Sub-Saharan Africa

MDGs

The number of people with access to improved drinking water increased by 300 million in Sub-Saharan Africa and by about 351 million in Africa as a whole between 1990 and 2011 (WHO/UNICEF 2013). Although this is quite an achievement, these figures are too low to reach the MDG of having 78% of the population with access to an improved drinking water source by 2015. In 2010, 23 African countries were on track to meet this target and, of these, 18 were definitely expected to meet it while the other 5 had made some but probably insufficient progress (AMCOW 2012). Nineteen countries, all of which were in Sub-Saharan Africa, had failed to make adequate progress towards reaching the target.

Growth in 'access'

The larger map shows the extent to which the growth in the number of people with access to an improved drinking water source between 1990 and 2011 kept up with overall population growth. For Africa as a whole, the growth in 'access' was 1.5 times higher than the continent's population growth, i.e. an improvement index of 1.5. The improvement index for Sub-Saharan Africa was 1.7. Substantial differences between countries can be noted in this respect: some did quite well (particularly Ethiopia), while other countries did not keep up with their population's growth.

Growth in 'no access'

What can easily be overlooked is the fact that, between 1990 and 2011, the population with no access to an improved drinking water source grew as well in Sub-Saharan Africa, namely by 62 million (or 24%). This is indicated in the three diagrams that show the percentage growth of both 'access' (y-axis) and 'no access' (x-axis). The shading indicates the degree of improvement. The top diagram highlights how growth of 'access' in half of all African countries (27) was combined with the growth of 'no access', and the latter was even higher than the former in three countries.

Urban-rural differences

There are significant differences between urban and rural areas. There is more blue in the rural population map than in the urban population map, which indicates a greater improvement index in the rural areas (Africa: 2.1; Sub-Saharan Africa: 2.4) than in the urban areas (both 1.0). And there are many more countries in the green and light-green zones in the rural diagram than in the urban diagram.

Challenges

Sub-Saharan Africa faces two enormous challenges in terms of access to safe drinking water. The first is improving the still very low levels of access in the rural areas (51% in 2011), despite good performances in these areas between 1990 and 2011. The second challenge is the uphill task in the urban areas of keeping up with the rapid population growth, particularly in informal settlements.

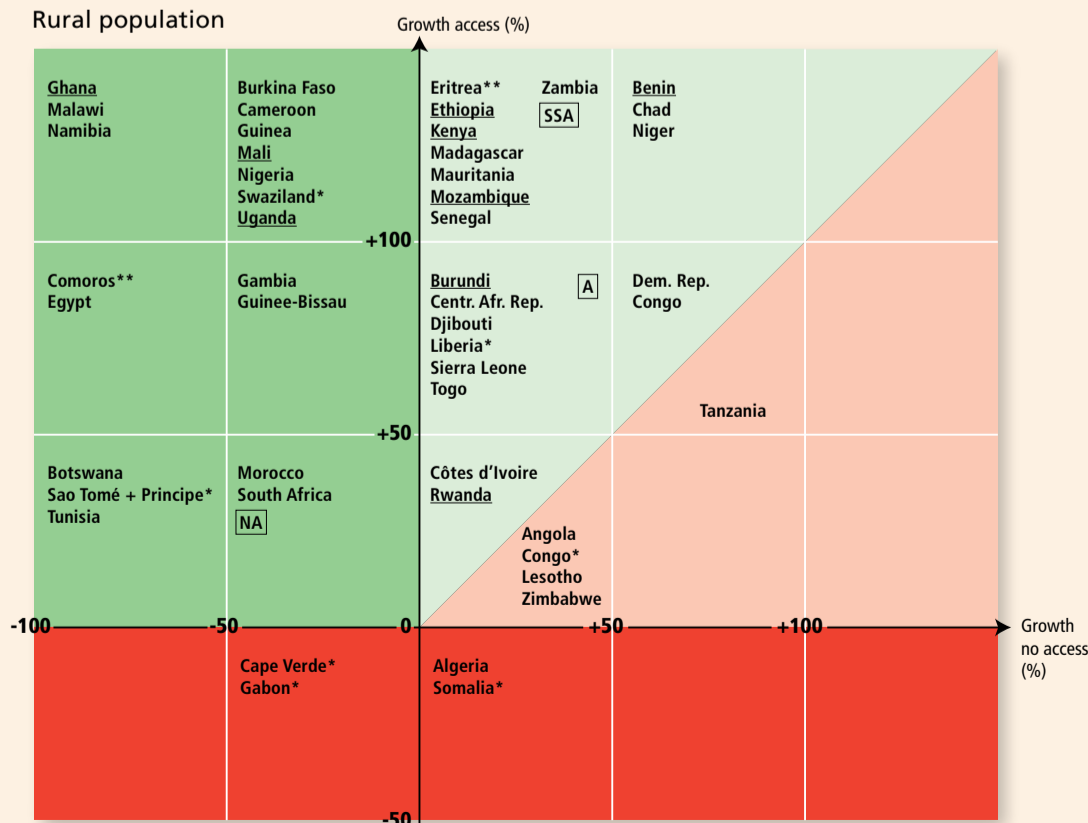
References

AMCOW (2012), A snapshot of drinking water and sanitation in Africa – 2012 update. Publication prepared for the African Ministers' Council on Water as a contribution to the Fourth Africa Water Week, Cairo, 14-15 May 2012.
 WHO/UNICEF (2013), Progress on sanitation and drinking-water: 2013 update. Geneva /New York: World Health Organization / United Nations Children's Fund.

Urban population



Rural population



Source: WHO/UNICEF (2013)

The African Studies Centre (ASC)

The ASC in Leiden, founded in 1947, is the only research institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa. Its primary aims are to undertake scientific research on Africa in the social sciences and humanities and to promote a better understanding of African societies. It is an independent institute but maintains close links with Leiden University, as part of LeidenGlobal. The ASC's work is not only of importance to researchers but also to policy-makers, journalists, NGOs, businesses and other organizations.

Research The ASC's research programme lasts for a period of five years. Projects are multidisciplinary, empirical in nature and are carried out in cooperation with African colleagues and institutions by the Centre's researchers and PhD and Research Masters students.

Library The ASC's Library, Documentation and Information Department has the most extensive and specialized collection on Africa in the Netherlands in the fields of the social sciences (including law and economics) and the humanities. The library, which is open to the general public, has more than 80,000 books, 1500 documentaries and feature films from and about Africa, and subscribes to nearly 750 periodicals. African Studies Abstracts Online offers some 10,000 abstracts and journal articles and web dossiers provide background information on specific topical events and themes.

Publications ASC researchers publish in many different journals and with well-known publishing houses. The Centre also has five publication series of its own: Africa Yearbook, Afrika-Studiecentrum Series, African Dynamics, African Studies Collection and ASC Infosheets.

Seminars Regular seminars are held at the ASC on Thursday afternoons on a wide range of topics. These are given by prominent local and international Africanists and are open to the general public.

Visiting Fellows Eight African academics are invited to Leiden every year on three-month fellowships to promote an effective academic dialogue between Africa and the North. These scholars use their stay in Leiden for data analysis and writing.

Research Masters in African Studies The ASC offers a two-year Research Masters in African Studies in cooperation with Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. About 60% of the students on this course come from outside the Netherlands.

Thesis Award A prize is awarded annually for the best Masters thesis on Sub-Saharan Africa by a student at a university in the Netherlands or in Africa. The winning thesis is published in the African Studies Collection series.

ASC Community The ASC Community includes fellows, affiliates and associates of the Centre, and people with a professional interest in Africa who are working in business, policy-making, NGOs and in media circles. We would like to welcome you as a partner in the ASC Community!

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