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Status QUO of SDG 2 and the Challenge of Zero Hunger in African Context

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Abstract

Africa region is experiencing hunger and food insecurities that is affecting everyday lives of people struggling to meet end meets. Although there are agricultural productivity and sustainability programmes in place, there is still a multidimensional food insecurity, and there is a negative impact of external shocks on SDG 2 progress in the region. The study is qualitative and compile information based on secondary sources available in the form of literature review. The information was assessed using document analysis. The finding shows that there are various drivers of hunger and food insecurity, such as poverty, inequality, socio-economic exclusion, weak agricultural systems and low productivity, climate change, environmental degradation, population growth and urbanisation pressures, to state a few. Findings further explore that there are implementation challenges to achieve SDG 2 in Africa. Such implementation gaps are linked to policy fragmentation and institutional silos, weak governance and limited institutional capacity, inadequate financing and investment gaps. Based on findings, the article offers recommendations suggesting to the need of strengthening agricultural productivity and sustainable food production, promoting climate-smart and resilient agriculture, and building integrated food systems rather than isolated agricultural programmes.

Keywords: Africa, Food Insecurity, Hunger, Poverty, Qualitative, Sustainable Development Goal 2.

Introduction

There are various causes leading to hunger and food insecurity. The region is facing with extreme challenges, some of them are lack of political stability, weak governance, environmental changes, financial inadequacy and economic degradation, to state a few. These challenges when not resolved may cause increase in poverty, unemployment and therefore people experience hunger and have unavailability of food to survive their daily lives (refer to Atukunda et al., 2021; Wudil et al., 2022). Global shocks such as the COVID-19, the Ukrain-Russia war also contribute to the delicate and unstable global food systems with huge impacts in Africa (Otekunrin et al., 2024). As a result, the African food insecurity situation is an interplay of local and global factors.

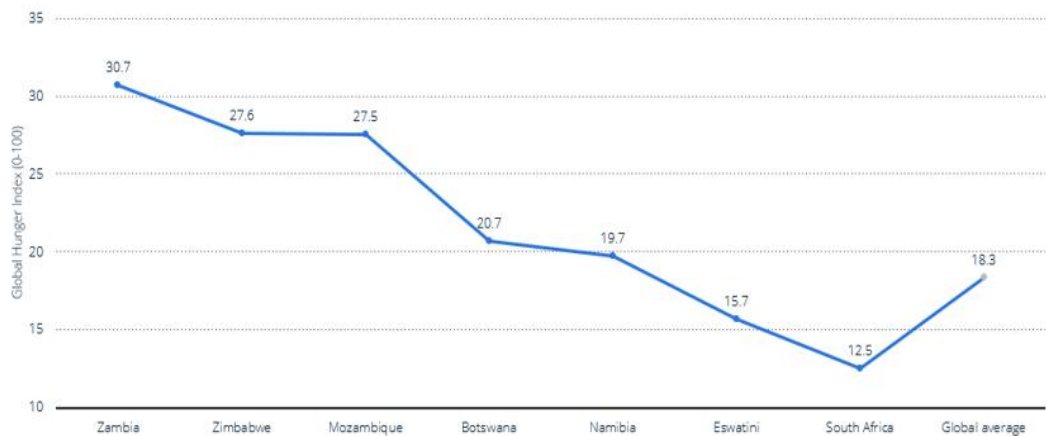
In addition, the structural weaknesses of Africa's agricultural sector significantly undermine progress towards SDG 2. According to Essien and Essien (2025) there are various indicators linked to agriculture development that African region is lacking to achieve. Some of these indicators are associated with irrigation facilities and coverage, and use of technology in agriculture and irrigation, all may be significant to establish sustainability in agricultural practices and processes. Africa is far behind realising this sustainability due to inadequate use of identified indicators. Such lack further restricts and cause limitation on agriculture-based

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development processes due to inter-linking challenges. Some of them are lack of financial investment in agriculture, and lack of involvement of small-scale farmers in agriculture-based transformation. Such challenges impact on the value chain that is not integrated and hence struggle to achieve adequate outcomes of improved farming. Such challenges apply pressure on the African countries to import food from other countries that has financial implications and may impact on the high cost linked to food items. This further restricts people to buy food that is not cost-effective (for more information, refer to Noor & Fawzi, 2016). The lack of agricultural land, equipment, access may lead to food insecurities and food unavailability. This may result in people experiencing hunger. In the context of Africa, see Graph 1.

Graph 1: Global Hunger Index (GHI) in Southern Africa 2024, by country



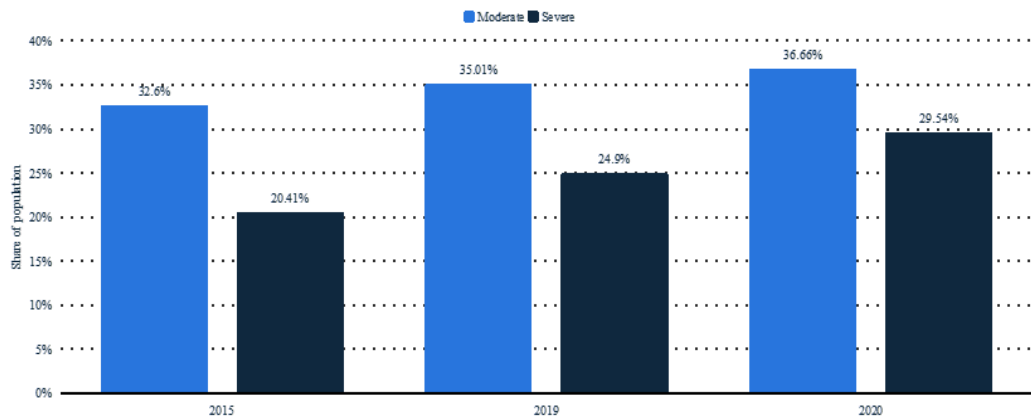
Statista, 2024.

The graph shows, based on the information obtained (Statista, 2024), that at the global hunger index Zambia is sitting right at the top with 30.7 and South Africa steps down to 12.5. This situation requires future research to be done with deep economic analysis as both countries experience the same level of climate challenges, history, and they share the same geographical landscape. However, in the global hunger index one country is at the top and another one is down. What caused the difference is a matter of further research from an economic point of view. Interestingly Zimbabwe and Mozambique have 27.6 and 27.5 that is almost close to a tie. What are the economic factors and GDP ratios affecting these countries to be on the parallel level on the global hunger index will be explored in further studies from an economic point of view. The analysis of the graph in this study shows that three countries Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique are facing more hunger levels called a severe hunger levels that is well above the global norm and standard on the global hunger chart. On the other hand, four countries Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa and Botswana are doing better off in terms of food security and falls under the average level on the word hunger index. Although these countries are doing much better as comparison to those African countries experiencing severe hunger and food insecurity does not mean that there is no room for improvement. These African countries need programmes and interventions to ensure that their food security improves, their hunger level drops, and they have procedures, processes, equipment, and infrastructure to grow food and have highest level of food

availability and access to beat hunger.

Africa has various challenges to deal with, ranging from weak political systems, economic instability, intra-country reforms, to state few. Additionally, when linked to SDG 2, the region has agriculture-related challenges as well. Such challenges are linked to irrigation processes, land access and technological equipment to increase farming (Essien & Essien, 2025). These challenges linked to agriculture and farming ultimately lead to challenges related to food chain, food availability and food insecurity. This situation has caused food insecurity, see Figure 1 that shows the prevalence of food insecurity in the region of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Figure 1: Food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa 2015-2020, by level



Source: Statista, 2021.

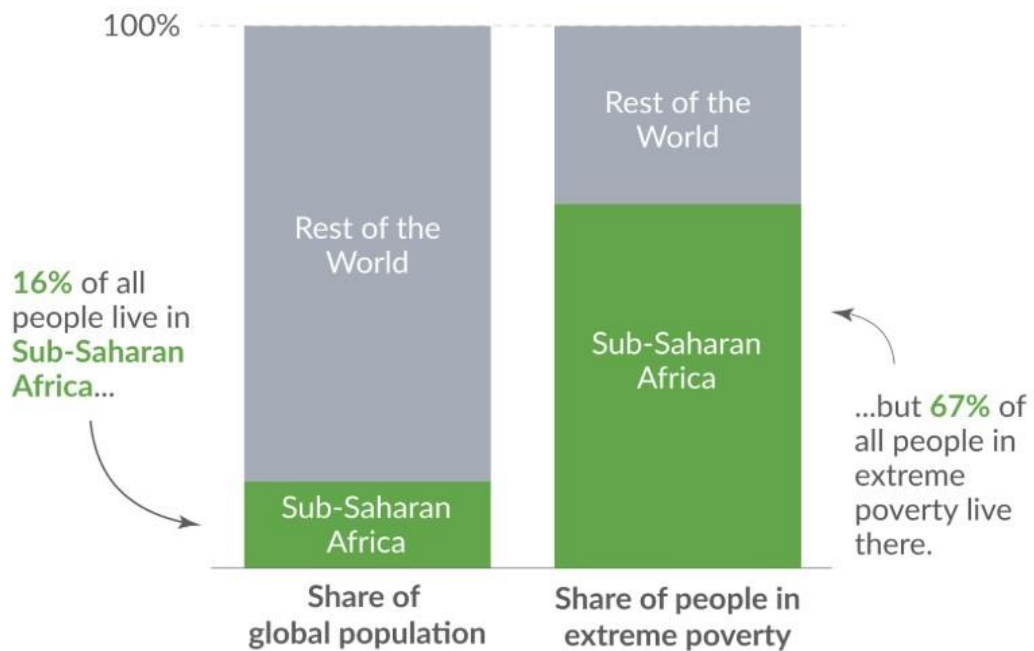
The information in the graph (Statista, 2021) shows that During the years 2015 to 2020 there is a shift from the moderate food insecurity to severe food insecurity. The statistic in the graph shows that there is a jump from 32.6% recorded in 2015 to 35.01% recorded in 2019, and another increase is 36.66% in 2020. This jump shows a shift for moderate insecurity to move towards severe food insecurity. However, there is a high jump that is a nine-point climb recorded over the same span. The statistics show an increase from 20.41% in 2015 to 24.9% in 2019 and then to 29.54% in 2020 confirming that the moderate food insecurity was rapidly moved towards the severe food insecurity.

The X axis of the graph (Statista, 2021) shows the duration of years from 2015 to 2019. It is a four-year period. During this duration the graph shows that there is an increase in moderate food insecurity that increased about 2.4 points. Additionally, the severe food insecurity also increased about 4.5 points. It is also noticeable that during 2019 to 2020 within just one year, there is another increase witnessed. The moderate food insecurity increased another 1.65 points. Additionally, the severe food insecurity also increased another 4.64 points. This is a concerning situation that within 2015 to 2019 the situation was not as deteriorating as is witnessed within one single year from 2019 to 2020. There could be many causes of such situation, whether it is linked to environmental challenges, economic challenges, unavailability of food, people losing

jobs and hence there is a loss in income, to state a few. Whatever the cause the reality is that people who are most vulnerable suffer the most, and experience hunger and food unavailability the most.

Nonetheless, this understanding is linked to another dimension that is a nexus between poverty, hunger and food insecurity. People are hungry because they are poor and hence have no access to food or food is not available, see Figure 3.

Figure 3: Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 16% of the global population but 67% of extreme poverty



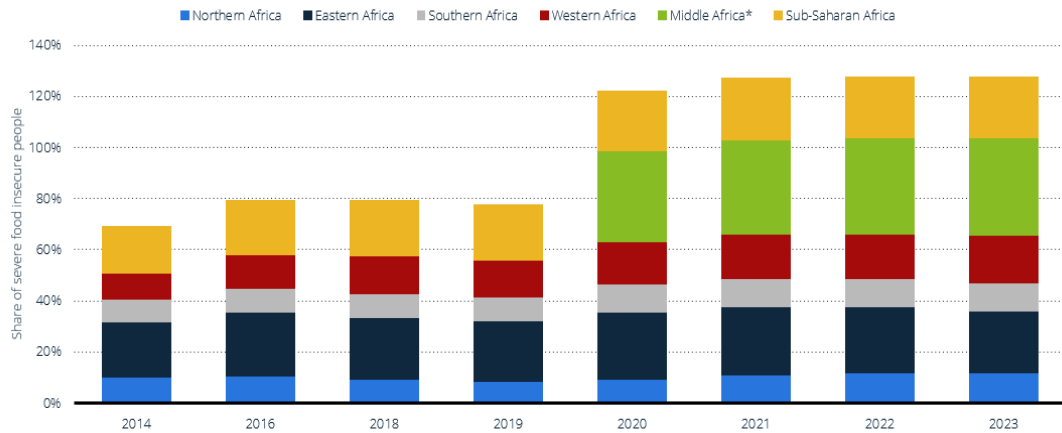
Note: Extreme poverty is defined as living below the International Poverty Line of \$2.15 per day. Data is shown for 2024 (van Teutem, 2025).

Source: van Teutem, 2025; Vyas-Doorgapersad, 2026.

The figure opens a discussion on inter-linkages between SDG 1 and SDG 2. This statement is substantiated by the opinions of Van der Berg, Zuze and Bridgeman (2020:19, in Hlongwane, 2023:2; Vyas-Doorgapersad, 2024a:250), stating that there is a clear connection between poverty and hunger. Household food insecurity is more common among those living in impoverished neighborhoods and poverty due to living in hazardous settings, utilizing inappropriate care techniques, and having limited access to healthcare, education, potable water, sanitation, and cleanliness. Each of them causes hunger. This aspect will be advanced in future research works exploring the linkages in selected African countries.

It is also important to note that SDG 2 is not only linked to hunger and food insecurity but has wider perspective to look at a holistic scenario. Although agricultural growth is required to increase the production of food items, consideration is also required towards the nutrition side of food that people consume, the cost of healthy food items as this aspect has a positive impact on the health-related wellness of people (Vyas-Doorgapersad, 2024b, Blesh et al., 2019). It is therefore suggested that SDG 2 must not be analysed in a fragmented manner, but requires a multi-level, multi-dimensional and multi-faceted approach linking food and hunger to health, nutrition, policies, agriculture, education, and socio-economic demographics of households. This approach may assist governments to establish policies and programmes with a more integrated outlook. See Figure 2 that shows the existence of severe food insecurity in sub-regions in Africa.

Figure 2: Severe food insecurity in African sub-region 2014-2023



Source: Statista, 2025.

The information (Statista, 2025) in the figure shows that around 2014 period, the countries that were not compared on the global hunger index, but in 2020 experienced the high increase of hunger and food insecurity. Countries like Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cameroon suddenly appeared on the index of hunger. The reasons could be assumed as the internal crisis, political insecurities, power struggles, that had affected the economy within these countries, and that further had a negative impact on food access and food availability. This aspect can be explored in future research works comparing the middle Africa with the rest of African region to understand what are the economic, social, geo-political, and environmental challenges that had created a shift within these countries to appear on the list of countries experiencing hunger from 2020 onwards.

From the literature review it can be deduced that there is a need for fundamental policy shifts to address these current siloed policies and approaches. As discussed above, there is a need to have an integrated policy and programmes combining various facets such as governance structures related to social welfare systems, social development and security systems, working with various related Ministries and Départements and incorporating the indigenous experience and knowledge to enhance agriculture practices and processes (for more information refer to Kom & Nethengwe, 2024).

Research Methodology and Theoretical Framework

The research is qualitative in nature. The rationale is that qualitative research approaches assist researchers in finding answers to complex situations (Lim, 2025). The information may be obtained through human experiences, perspectives, thoughts, point of views through interviews. The information can also be obtained through available secondary sources and considered as desktop review of existing information. The information in qualitative research approach is compiled through narration or comprehensively explainable texts avoiding statistical evaluation and numbers. This approach is not quantitative and hence may be considered significant to contextualize situations requiring detailed analysis with explanations and descriptions of situations through answering what and why of the topic under investigation. The information was obtained through the review of literature. According to Snyder (2019: 333; Hlatshwayo, 2026:6), literature review of varied sources assists researchers to identify the gaps of information left in available studies, focus on filling those gaps, and synthesising information related to the area of focus. It can be particularly helpful when the goal is to chart the evolution of a certain research topic across time, and it provides the basis for creating a new conceptual model or theory. Information was compiled from various sources such as books, chapters, journal articles, internet sources, official documents, etc. Information was assessed using thematic analysis. Braun and Clarke, cited in Cooper, Camic, Long, Panter, Rindskopf, and Sher (2012:59), note that the process of methodically identifying, classifying, and producing insights into patterns of meaning (themes) within a dataset is known as thematic analysis. By concentrating on meaning throughout the dataset, thematic analysis helps researchers comprehend and explain common meanings and experiences. Finding distinct or single meanings and experiences found only in individual data items is not the goal of thematic analysis. Rather, this approach helps to identify what is frequently written or discussed about a subject and to interpret those shared characteristics. On the other hand, commonality does not always imply importance or worth. Researchers must find meaningful patterns that are pertinent and important to the subject at hand using thematic analysis (Braun et al. 2012:59; Mathejwa, 2026:9).

There are various frameworks defining hunger and/or sustainability aspect of development goals. However, food security it is not easy to confirm that there is one theoretical framework that can be considered suitable to discuss SDG 2/zero hunger. The suitability of a framework depends on various aspects, such as food security, accessibility, availability, nutritious and healthy food items, agriculture facilities, to state a few. However, in this study, based on the content, the Sustainability Livelihoods Framework (SLF) may be considered as suitable as it is aligned with aspects of SDG 2 such as food security and sustainability of livelihoods due to availability of food. Hunger and food insecurity in Africa are caused by many factors, some of them are unemployment, poverty, agriculture and infrastructure inadequacy, challenges with access to land for farming, climate change and environmental degradation, etc. The concept of SLF was created by Chambers and Conway (1992) who considered this framework as a tool to assess ways of living by people especially in areas or regions that are financially deprived, geographically far, rural and hence have limited resources to manage daily living. The framework was advanced by Scoones (1998) linking policies, and assets to people's living hence the outcomes of livelihoods. According to Serrat (2017), the framework was adopted by the Department for International Development that is based in UK that is now considered as a tool in the field of development research.

Considering the information provided by Scoones and Serrat, it is deduced that the framework has five significant core components. One is linked to human capital that deals with labour, skills, and health. Second core is called as social capital that is aligned with aspects of kinship, networks and cooperation. Third core is related to natural capital that deals with issues surrounding with water, biodiversity, land and soil. Fourth core is linked to physical capital that is linked to tools, infrastructure and storage. The last core that is fifth one is linked to financial capital that is related to credit, savings and remittances (Scoones, 1998; Serrat, 2017). The framework may be considered suitable to assess SDG 2 in African context as region has its bio-natural resources that can be utilized to sustain the livelihood of people. Instead of relying on one core capital, if all are combined then it can lead to better market access and hence improved sustainability towards food security.

Status of SDG 2 in Africa

This section discusses the following:

Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability

Food security in Africa is also affected by structural flaws in African agricultural systems. Over the past few decades, there has been a general shift in the agricultural production value chains in Africa as well as a lack of investment in irrigation infrastructure. The population in the region is growing but the production of food is not increasing to meet the demands of the growing populace. Although there are investments made in agricultural sector, there is an expansion of food production and value chain, but the perceived outcomes are yet far approachable. Africa is lacking in food access and availability due to factors such as migration of people from rural areas to urban areas, increased population, climate change, lack of agriculture land, access to land, and to state a few. All these challenges cause food insecurity and Africa then become dependent on importing food that is expensive for people to buy (refer to Noor & Fawzi, 2016; Wudil et al., 2022). One of the biggest internal challenges is the rise of number of people and the production of food items to accommodate the need of such population expansion. Interventions, programmes and adequate government policies are required to link these two variables and find strategies to overcome the challenge.

Multidimensional Food Insecurity

Food is linked to various other variables, such as agriculture, farming, irrigation, nutrition, affordability, access, health, wellness, etc. Scholar have conducted various studies and findings show that families living under financially disadvantaged situations, low-income groups have less information regarding dietary requirements of a healthy food plan. In these households, there seems to be a limited availability of wholefood that is required to provide proper nutrition for a healthy living (for more information, refer to Pomati & Nandy, 2019). Households frequently rely on inexpensive, high-energy but low-nutrient diets, which increases the prevalence of obesity and undernutrition.

Viewed from a multidimensional perspective, food availability, utilisation and stability are other factors impacting negatively towards achieving SDG2 in Africa. Scholars have raised concern regarding underdiscussed issues such as low dietary diversity among poor and rural households that have limited access to nutritious diets (Pomati & Nandy, 2019). It can be deduced that

poverty Is not only linked to availability of money to access food, but lack of healthy food, inadequate lifestyle, unhealthy choices related to food causing overweight, obesity on one side and under/malnutrition on the other side is also a poverty. This poverty is called poverty of understanding related to healthy food and wellness. Additionally, dependency on unhealthy food, non-nutritious foods, calorie-loaded food and financially low-cost food, all may lead to a different form of poverty, in the context of SDG 2, is called as ‘wellness poverty’ and households/people may be considered as ‘wellness poor’. However, these definitions are not applicable to people who are financially vulnerable, unemployed and have no access to food. That scenario demands various interventions at various levels: governments to have pro-poor policies, ministries of health, education, social development, labour, information, agriculture, etc. to have integrated programmes for eradicating poverty that cause food unavailability to people who are living under poor conditions.

Impact of External Shocks on SDG 2 Progress

Mugambiwa and Tirivangasi (2017) highlights the climate change as one of the external factors affecting food security in Africa. The scholars argue that climate change has exposed the fragility of Africa’s food systems due to limited resilience in the existing agricultural and economic structures. As noted earlier by Otekunrin et al., (2024), wars between Ukraine and Russia and recently between Iran and Israel have also tested and revealed the fragility of African food systems which are increasingly reliant on these global food value systems.

Overall Performance and Outlook

The SDG Report (2024) shows, less than 6% of SDG targets are on track among them being SDG2 which requires urgent attention. The marginal declines in malnutrition among children in sub-Saharan and East Africa, the changes in agricultural systems which continue to undermatch population growth remain challenges Africa should address to get back on track to achieve SDG 2 targets by 2030. These challenges reflect broader governance and economic changes required at the continental and local; levels to get back on the development trajectory.

The above discussion is summarised as a triple burden in relation to SDG 2:

1. Persistent and rising hunger
2. Slow progress in reducing malnutrition
3. Weak and unsustainable agricultural systems

Africa requires continental response mechanisms to address these intercontinental challenges if the goal to achieve zero hunger is to be achieved by 2030..

Discussion and Findings: Drivers of Hunger and Food Insecurity in Africa

This section discusses the following:

Poverty, Inequality, and Socioeconomic Exclusion

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] (2026), the cost of a healthy diet in Africa escalated by 5.5% within a single year. This increase has pushed adequate nutrition beyond the reach of poor and marginalised households in Africa. According to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), most African households are completely impoverished, which forces them to resort to harsh coping strategies. Such strategies include not

eating food, not eating full meals, skipping eating food. It also means that when they cannot manage hunger as it is a basic human need, then they have no other option but to buy cheap, low-cost food that is overloaded with calories and does not provide required nutrition to the body (FAO, 2026). This situation gives a scenario that even food is available it cannot be accessed due to lack of finances to buy the food. Vulnerable groups and households who are poor ultimately remained unhealthy due to lack of nutritious food and continue their daily lives trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty-food insecurity-undernourished-unhealthy. This situation is a biggest challenge to realise SDG 2.

Additional challenges are lack of access to land, inadequate financial assistance to farming, lack of education, especially in the field of agriculture, may restrict women and children, people living in rural areas, to experience food insecurity (Pomati & Nandy, 2019). According to a report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, World Food Programme, and World Health Organization [FAO et al.] (2025), structural imbalances are more pronounced at the bottom of the community where the concentration of land, capital, and resource distribution does not do much to change the situation of marginalised groups like women, children and people with disabilities (FAO et al., 2025).

On the other hand, socioeconomic exclusion often prevents marginalized and rural populations from actively engaging in the economy and utilizing the vital infrastructure needed to ensure food security. Outreach International (2025) reports the geographical disparities that can also cause challenges for rural communities to have access to food. The reasons could be lack of road infrastructure that restricts them from going to markets where food is available and/or vendors to travel to rural areas to sell food items. Additional challenges are inadequate access to water that affects farming, financial organisations providing aid for agriculture, lack of transportation facilities for traveling to and forth to food markets, etc. Farmers in rural areas may struggle to sell their crops, may not be fully involved in food chain, hence may experience food unavailability and insecurity.

Inadequate Agricultural Processes/System/Productivity

As discussed above, lack of transport, roads and infrastructure are some of the causes leading to food insecurities. This situation also leads to rising demand but low supply of food items. There are other factors worth considering as well (Essien & Essien, 2025). These include lack of financial investments in agriculture, and lack of access to food markets (for more information refer to Essien & Essien, 2025; Wudil et al., 2022).

These challenges that are discussed above, such as lack of farming land, equipment, facilities and lack of utilization of technology in agriculture practices and processes were further studied in the locus of Sub-Saharan Africa by Chidiebere-Mark et al. (2023). The study found various gaps causing food insecurity, such as lack of Acts, policies and related frameworks, limited or lack of financial investment in agriculture and irrigation processes, and considered them as structural challenges to food security.

Another challenge to food insecurity is linked to structural-administrative challenges such as post-harvest farming management systems. Africa's agricultural value chains are fragile contributing to massive post-harvest losses. Poor post-harvest destroys a substantial percentage

of the food that is successfully grown before it can ever reach a consumer. Data from the [African Postharvest Losses Information System \(APHLIS\)](#) reveals shocking levels of post-harvest losses in sub-Saharan Africa. An average of 37%, with up to 96% of all underutilised food in the region is lost during storage, handling, and transit rather than wasted by consumers. Between 14-36% of critical maize grain staple supplies are lost due to poor infrastructure and pest infestations (Ariyo, Ahmed, Olowolaju, Onyegbula, Solana, Adediran & Atanda, 2025). These avoidable yet widespread artificial contributors to food shortages reduces the market supply while driving up local food prices and put pressure on resource poor communities.

Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

Climate change is the new threat to Africa's possibility to achieve SDG2 by 2030. Mugambiwa and Tirivangasi (2017) notes that erratic rainfall patterns, increased frequency of droughts and floods, and rising temperatures negatively affect crop yields, livestock productivity, and water availability.

Population Growth and Urbanisation Pressures

As discussed above, the expansion of population creates more demand for food but does not meet with the supply side of food. There is an inequality between food demand and food supply. Such demand requires more investment in agriculture, yet agriculture-based outputs and demand results are not aligned with food supply (Wudil et al., 2022). The population expansion is caused may be due to people migrating from rural to urban areas leading to urbanization of cities hence applying pressure for more food demand. Significant populations in cities like Kinshasa are at risk from price swings and supply interruptions due to the rising reliance of urban populations on market-based food systems. The capacity to produce food is further limited by the rivalry for limited urban land, water, and other natural resources brought on by the demographic pressure (refer to (Wudil et al., 2022).

Implementation Challenges to Achieve SDG 2 in Africa

The existence of agricultural and food policies in Africa has not helped much to alleviate food insecurity and hunger in Africa. Even global, regional and national commitments to achieve SDG2 have not helped much to address the key indicators and targets for SDG2 which are off track. While the drivers of food insecurity in the previous discussion have highlight *why* hunger persists, this section will discuss implementation challenges to explain why the interventions are failing to deliver intended outcomes. The review of literature confirms the concerns related to implementation gaps causing challenges in achieving SDG 2 in Africa (Vyas-Doorgapersad, 2024a; 2024b; Kennedy, Jafari, Stamoulis, & Callens, 2021).

Policy Fragmentation and Institutional Silos

The fact that present agricultural, health, social, and economic development policies are divided and compartmentalized along particular issues with little recognition of the intersectoral nature of food insecurity and hunger in Africa is a major obstacle to achieving the SDGs. A few scholars who have conducted research in the related area have raised concerns regarding food insecurity in the region. Their concerns highlight that there is a fragmented policy system that lacks integration of varied significant aspects. It is therefore suggested having an integrated/unified

system of processes linking food availability, market access and food value chain (Queenan, Cuevas, Mabhaudhi, Chimonyo, & Slotow, 2021). Vyas-Doorgapersad (2024b) added that lack of monitoring and evaluation processes to assess implementation gaps, may restrict effective outcome of combating hunger and proving food securities. Additionally, a non-alignment of national policies and frameworks regulating policy implementation may cause challenges to achieve the SDG 2 outcomes.

Weak Governance and Limited Institutional Capacity

There are various challenges to food security. Some of the structural challenges are discussed above linking to inadequate implementation or fragmentation of policies. There are other institutional challenges worth noting, such as lack of utilising technology-based equipment or digital interventions in agriculture and farming, the technical and technological skill to operate digitalised machines for farming, lack of accountability in governance processes, inadequate checks and balances and monitoring and evaluation measures, to state a few. These challenges further lead to inadequate use, allocation and impact of available resources, additionally impacting the outcome (Otekunrin, Otekunrin, Momoh & Ayinde, 2019).

Inadequate Financing and Investment Gaps

As highlighted above, there is a lack of financial assistance to small-scale farmers, especially in rural areas that affects their agriculture practices. It was further stressed by Cohen (2019) stating that on one is a minimal investment on agricultural processes and practices. On the other hand, there is an overly reliance on international organisations to offer financial aid. The implementation of SDG 2 actions is directly impacted by these issues, which explains the poor and stagnant progress on most the intervention's key metrics. here is need for sustained funding, research, infrastructure support and social protection to achieve SDG2 in Africa.

There is concern that the Maputo and Malabo Declarations that emphasised agricultural investments have not been fully implemented as many countries fail to meet set targets for these declarations (refer to Wudil et al., 2022).

Recommendations: Strategies and Pathways to Achieve SDG 2 in Africa

The way African governments perceive these above-stated challenges, identify them, recognize their impact, and then strategise to integrate all related policies to reduce food insecurities, may determine the achievement of SDG 2 in the region. The literature review has shown the disparities and inequalities whereby children, women, people with physical-mental challenges and households living in rural areas are affected more and experience more hunger and food insecurities. The causes are related to inadequate road, water supply, transportation, energy and financial investment in agriculture-related processes. There are other bigger challenges causing food insecurities and they are weak political structures, governance systems, political instability, financial and economic challenges, environmental challenges and climate changes, lack of understanding regarding wellness, healthy and nutritious food causing malnutrition and being overweight amongst households. It is suggested to consider improve agricultural processes through technology, and by embracing indigenous knowledge may assist governments to achieve

Strengthening Agricultural Productivity and Sustainable Food Production

Essien and Essien (2025) indicated that Africa's weak sustainability is due to weak indicators, limited inputs, poor irrigation coverage hence the need to invest in sustainable modern agricultural practices. Mason-D'Croz, Sulser, Wiebe, Rosegrant, Lowder, Nin-Pratt, Willenbockel, Robinson, Zhu, Cenacchi, Dunston, and Robertson (2019) also argued that investments in agricultural research can offset some effects of climate change. Thus, agricultural research can play a significant contribution towards achieving SDG2 in Africa. Public investment in research and agricultural infrastructure is therefore a fundamental consideration in turning around Africa's food security systems to achieve SDG2 by 2030.

Promoting Climate-Smart and Resilient Agriculture

Understanding weather patterns, environmental assessment, and disaster management measures, may assist farmers to proactively strategise the solutions to protect their crops. According to Mugambiwa and Tirivangasi (2017), calamities such as floods, droughts, heavy winds, all require environmental-based knowledge and strategies. Researchers such as Kori, Zhou, and Sibanda (2023) farmers need to understand adaptability to climate change. Such adaptability measures may assist them to have sources to harvest water that can be used during droughts, measures to conserve crops that they can use using natural calamities, gain education on agriculture facilities, technology and agroforestry. Such measures and understanding offered to farmers require various levels of support. Such supportive measures are linked to institutional, financial, technological, and financial assistance.

Building Integrated Food Systems Rather Than Isolated Agricultural Programmes

SDG 2 is linked to health, nutrition, wellness hence food and food chain need to integrate these aspects in policymaking processes. SDG 2 has multi-faceted aspects hence all need to be integrated along with the markets, governance, food value chain, livelihood framework to achieve the development goal (Blesh, Hoey, Jones, Friedmann & Perfecto, 2019). This requires collaboration with various government departments such as health, water, sanitation, energy, education, social development, labour, trade to have a unified policy integrating all inter-linking aspects to realise SDG 2. Stakeholders such as engineers, technical experts, water professionals, energy experts, agricultural specialists, horticulturists, nutritionists, etc. need to be part of the policymaking processes, stakeholder discussions and needs analysis. A collective effort, partnership-networking outlook, integrated approach, coordinated plan, unified goal, all may assist governments to realise SDG 2 within their respective domains.

Conclusion

The study discussed the key drivers of food insecurity in Africa which is summarised as an interconnection of agricultural, environmental and health factors. This complex system is characterised by governance failures, economic inequality, agricultural underdevelopment, environmental stressors, demographic pressures and weak institutional systems. Thus, food security in Africa is multifaceted governance and development challenge. Recommendations are

offered to reduce hunger, enhance food security and hence to achieve SDG 2 in the African region as a locus of the study.

The study is qualitative and based on desktop analysis of information available in the form of books, journal articles, official reports, etc. The nature of the study is comprehensive hence study lacks empirical data that may be considered as a limitation to the study. Future studies may explore SDG 2 in selected African countries and data may be compiled based on qualitative desktop analysis of the secondary information. Targets and indicators may be quantitatively discussed to understand the impact of SLF on reducing hunger and food insecurity. The study aims to contribute to the fields of public management, and development studies.

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