



The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network



In partnership with
Canada



Evaluating the State of Care in Africa:

THE AFRICA CARE ECONOMY INDEX

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Contents of this Presentation

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FEMNET EJRP PROGRAM:

The Africa Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) is a feminist, Pan-African WRO and membership network (800 individual and institutional members in 50 countries in Africa and in the diaspora) with the core mandate to amplify African women's voices and advance women's rights in policy and in practice.

FEMNET's Economic Justice and Rights Program work is built on an approach to knowledge generation, movement building, capacity strengthening and advocacy for economic policies and practices that ensure that women's rights are upheld and that they can live dignified lives. This includes influencing around the establishment of caring economies.



Background and Rationale for the ACEI:

- A project building on the work of WRAs and Feminists over the past decade. Conceptualized as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic amplifying care needs and a significant deficit in meeting them.
- Doubled and tripled burden on care-givers world over, both domestic (unpaid) and in the service and health sectors (paid). Women performed 76.2% of unpaid care work, three times more than men (ILO 2020)
- Also recognizing Africa as having one of the most unshared care systems globally – women and girls perform 70% of unpaid domestic work; with or without a pandemic.
- Resulting socio-economic negatives with relegation of women to more “reproductive” than “productive” roles in society. Time use survey data indicates the following trends:

Table 1. Minutes and hours spent per day on unpaid caring work by gender, various countries and years
(Source: Charmes 2006)

	Benin (1998)		South Africa (2000)		Madagascar (2001)		Mauritius (2003)	
	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂
Unpaid domestic and caring work	3h 28min	1h 7min	3h 48min	1h 15min	3h 41min	47min	4h 37min	1h 13min
Unpaid subsistence production – various	1h 44min	1h 19min	24min	27min	1h 50min	1h 37min	unavailable	
TOTAL unpaid caring work	5h 12min	2h 48min	4h 33min	1h 45min	5h 30min	2h 0min	4h 37min	1h 12min

Figure 1. Hours spent per day, various activities, by gender and age group, Lesotho, 2002/3 [Data Source: Dawson 2008]

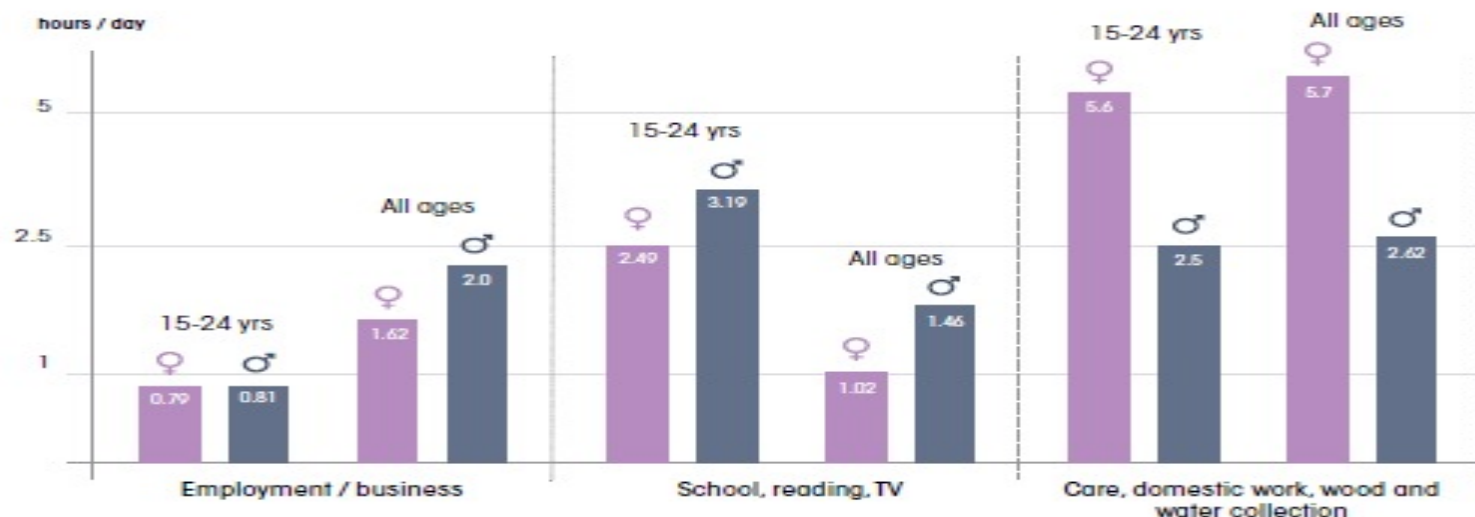


Figure 4. Minutes spent per day, unpaid household work and care, by gender and age group, South Africa, 2010
[Data Source: Statistics South Africa 2013]

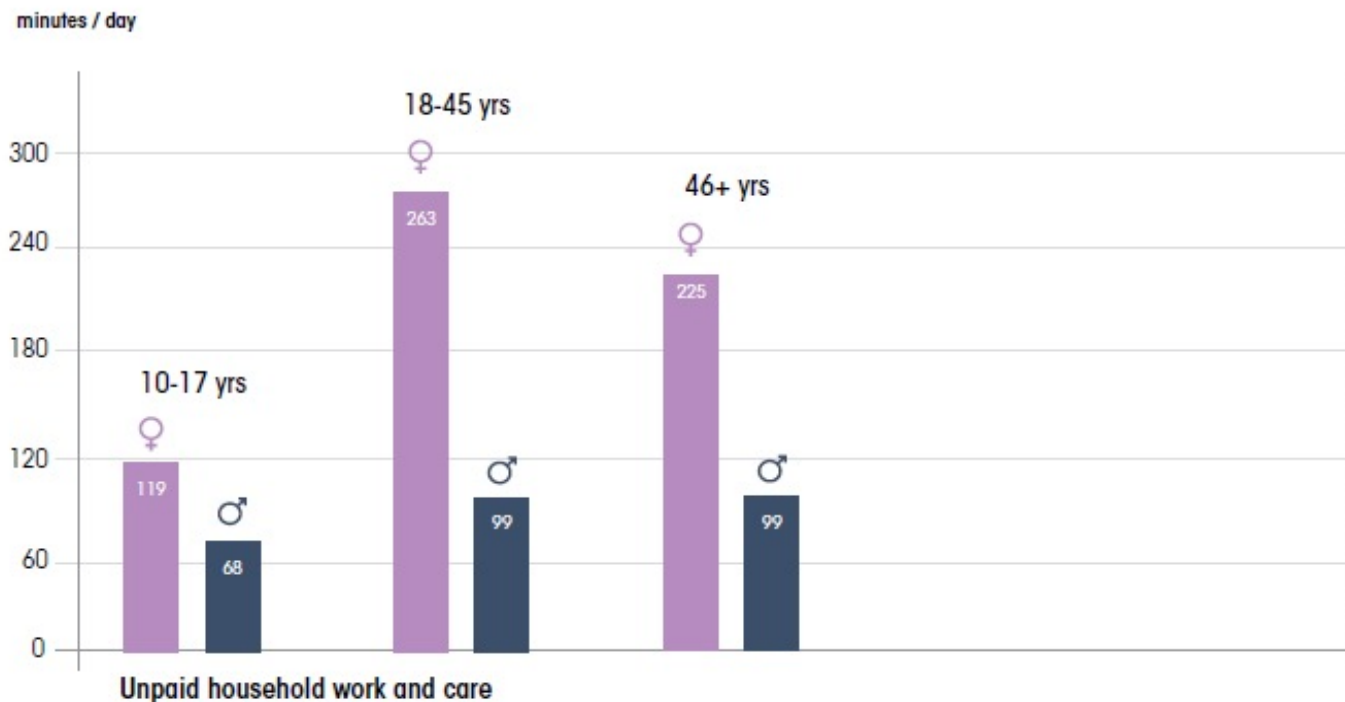


Figure 5. Minutes spent per day, paid and unpaid work in establishments, by gender, South Africa, 2010
[Data Source: Statistics South Africa 2013]



Background and Rationale for the ACEI:

- African states have for a long time demonstrated a failure to recognize care work as productive work resulting in the undervaluing of care work and complete unrecognition of unpaid care. This highlights why the care economy is far from a policy priority in the continent.
- *The Africa Care Economy (ACE) Index seeks to measure social recognition (in the form of legislation), and state support (in the form of government spending), for care in the 54 countries of Africa.*



Index areas of measurement-ACE Scorecard

5/10 Focus Areas in this presentation

1. Maternity and parental leave
2. Socialized Childcare
3. Socialized care for the elderly
4. Socialized care for people with disabilities
5. Socialized healthcare

 Metric 1 Maternity and parental leave	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Metric 2 Socialised childcare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Metric 3 Socialised care for the elderly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Metric 4 Socialised care for people living with disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Metric 5 Socialised healthcare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Metric 6 Socialised food production	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Metric 7 COVID care measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Metric 8 Domestic Worker Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
 Metric 9 Care grants and subsidies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Metric 10 Family care leave	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL : 30 POINTS



Maternity and paternal leave

Legislation is available in 53 African states, except Sierra Leone, ranging from 8-17 weeks.

- Maternity leave legislation in Burkina Faso and South Sudan stand out in that these are the only countries that extend the full leave and benefits to women who give birth to stillborn infants
- Cash benefits are included in all national maternity leave legislation, except for Lesotho.
- 36 of the 52 countries with paid maternity leave, cash benefits are 100 percent of salaries →

Maternity and paternal leave– 4 points

Country	ACE Index Score /4
Algeria	0.9
Angola	0.8
Benin	1.0
Botswana	1.9
Burkina Faso	(bonus: mothers of stillborn) 2.5
Burundi	0.9
Cabo Verde	1.3
Cameroun	2.5
Central African Republic	1.0
Tchad	1.0
Comoros	(bonus: migrants workers) 3.0
Congo	1.0
Democratic Republic of Congo	1.0
Côte d'Ivoire	2.0
Djibouti	(bonus: migrant workers) 3.5
Egypt	0.9
Equatorial Guinea	(bonus: migrant workers and emigrants) 2.4
Eritrea	0
Eswatini	1.9
Ethiopia	2.5

Malawi	1.8
Mali	2.0
Mauritania	2.0
Mauritius	0.8
Morocco	0
Mozambique	2.8
Namibia	0.9
Niger	0
Nigeria	0.9
Rwanda	0.9
Sao Tome and Principe	0.8
Sénégal	(bonus: migrant workers and adoptive parents) 3.5
Seychelles	1.0
Sierra Leone	0
Somalia	1.0
South Africa	1.0
South Sudan	(bonus: mothers of stillborn) 2.9

Socialized Childcare– 4 points

- Highlights a lack of socialized childcare related laws and policies across all African countries, exception of Algeria where 83% of the cost of nurseries is subsidized by the state's Ministry of Labour and Social Works.
- Regulation of privately provided childcare in the continent is also sparse, existing in various written forms in only ten-countries(among them South Africa, Kenya Namibia and Seychelles)



Socialized Childcare– 4 points

Country	ACE Index Score /4
Algeria	2.0
Angola	0
Benin	0
Botswana	0
Burkina Faso	0
Burundi	0
Cabo Verde	0
Cameroun	0
Central African Republic	0
Tchad	0
Comoros	0
Congo	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	0
Côte d'Ivoire	0
Djibouti	0
Egypt	0
Equatorial Guinea	0
Eritrea	0
Eswatini	0
Ethiopia	0.3
Gabon	0
Gambia	0
Ghana	1.0
Guinea	0
Guinea Bissau	0

Country	ACE Index Score /4
Mozambique	0
Namibia	0.2
Niger	0
Nigeria	0
Rwanda	0.3
Sao Tome and Principe	0
Sénégal	0
Seychelles	0
Sierra Leone	0.3
Somalia	0
South Africa	0.4
South Sudan	0
Sudan	0
Tanzania	0
Togo	0
Tunisia	0
Uganda	0
Zambia	0
Zimbabwe	0.2

Socialized care for the elderly– 3points

- Africa is noted as the continent with the most unshared system of care in the world. Over 70% of care for the elderly in particular in Africa is provided within the family.
- A scan of legislation and policy around public homes and care programs for the elderly shows that socialized care for the elderly is non-existent in the continent. Legislation on the regulation of privately provided care for the elderly was found for three countries: Algeria, South Africa and Mauritius
- Due to significantly higher and rising old age dependency ratios in every other region in the world, Africa risks losing more care workers of various types to these other regions and for that reason, socialized care is important in this category.



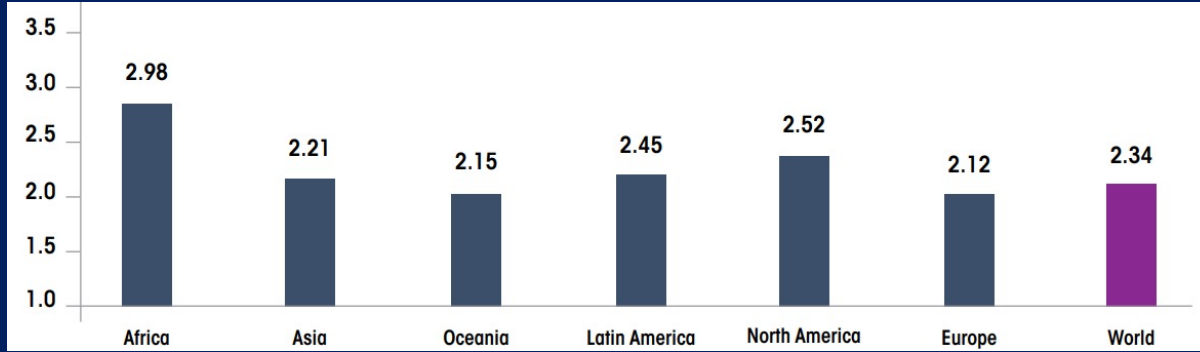
Socialized care for the elderly– 3points

Country	ACE Index Score /3
Algeria	0.75
Angola	0
Benin	0
Botswana	0
Burkina Faso	0
Burundi	0
Cabo Verde	0
Cameroun	0
Central African Republic	0
Tchad	0
Comoros	0
Congo	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	0
Côte d'Ivoire	0

Mauritania	0
Mauritius	0.75
Morocco	0
Mozambique	0
Namibia	0
Niger	0
Nigeria	0
Rwanda	0
Sao Tome and Principe	0
Sénégal	0
Seychelles	0
Sierra Leone	0
Somalia	0
South Africa	0.75



Socialized care for people living with disabilities – 3 points



- Due to high levels of illness and disability through all age groups in Africa, each unpaid caregiver Africa is estimated to carry 3 units of care, compared to a world average of 2.34 units
- No African country has legislation on public programs for the care of PWD.



Socialized care for people living with disabilities – 3points

Country	ACE Index Score /3
Algeria	0
Angola	0
Benin	0
Botswana	0.2
Burkina Faso	0.2
Burundi	0
Cabo Verde	0
Cameroun	0
Central African Republic	0
Tchad	0
Comoros	0
Congo	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	0
Côte d'Ivoire	0

Country	ACE Index Score /3
Mozambique	0
Namibia	0
Niger	0
Nigeria	0
Rwanda	0
Sao Tome and Principe	0
Sénégal	0
Seychelles	0
Sierra Leone	0
Somalia	0
South Africa	0
South Sudan	0
Sudan	0
Tanzania	0
Togo	0
Tunisia	0
Uganda	0
Zambia	0
Zimbabwe	0



Socialized Healthcare – 4 points

- ❑ Africa has the world's highest nurse to doctor ratio at 5.2 nurses to every doctor and 65% of nurses in the continent are female.
- ❑ Public Healthcare systems are still failing. The most recent data shows that on average between 2002 and 2019(immediately after Abuja declaration of 15% spending on health, and up until the present), not a single African government reached this target.

Socialized Healthcare-4points

Country	% 2002-2019	ACE Index Score /4
Algeria	9.2	0
Angola	5.4	0
Benin	4.5	0
Botswana	10.2	0
Burkina Faso	7.3	0
Burundi	6.8	0
Cabo Verde	9.5	0
Cameroun	3.4	0
Central African Republic	6.2	0
Tchad	6.5	0
Comoros	4.5	0

Libya (2002-2011)	5.4	0
Madagascar	12.3	0
Malawi	6.9	0
Mali	4.9	0
Mauritania	4.7	0
Mauritius	8.3	0
Morocco	6.7	0
Mozambique	5.5	0
Namibia	12.9	0
Niger	8.3	0
Nigeria	4.4	0
Rwanda	8.5	0
Sao Tome and Principe	7.1	0
Sénégal	6.2	0
Seychelles	9.1	0
Sierra Leone	7.1	0

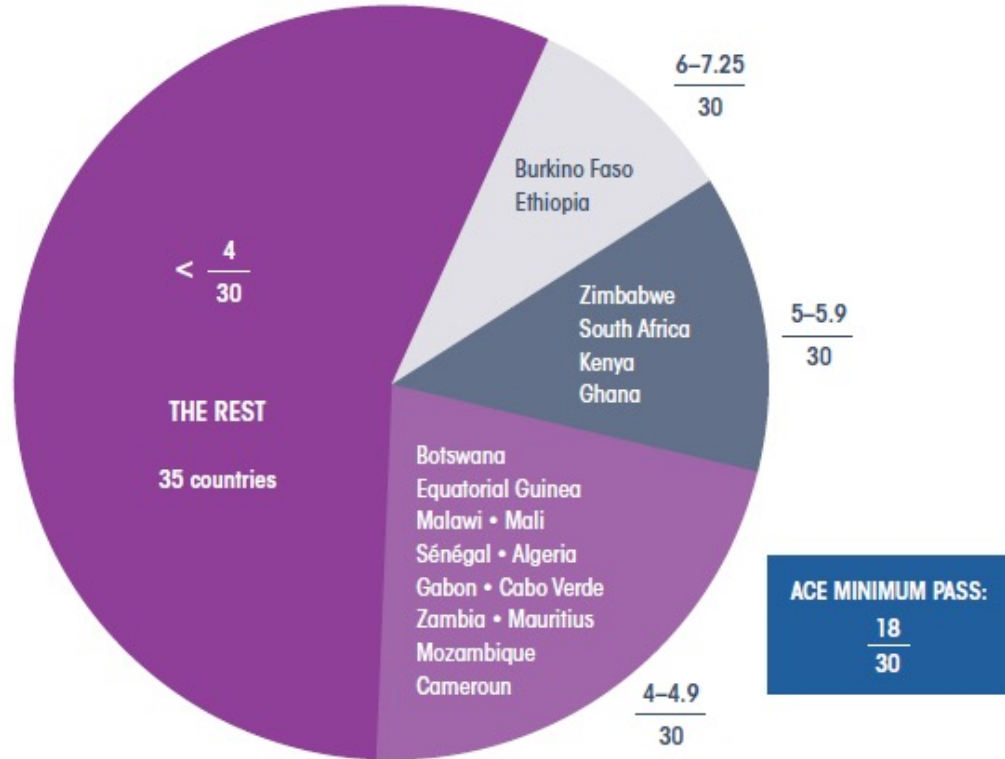


Overall Results

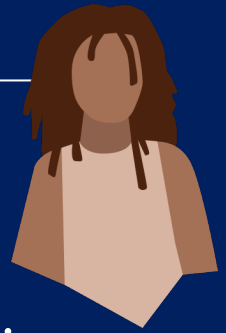
All countries in the continent have performed extremely low, scoring less than half of the passing grade pegged at 18/30. Out of the 54 African states evaluated, only six countries attain a total of more than 5 points:

Burkina Faso – 7.25
Ethiopia – 6.3
Zimbabwe – 5.95
South Africa – 5.7
Kenya – 5.65
Ghana – 5.5

Figure 12. ACE Index scores



Recommendations



- ❑ In-depth country specific research to access and understand diverse care needs in the various country contexts.
- ❑ Policy development and implementation on recognizing, supporting and redistributing care work.
- ❑ Public investment in socialized/public services by stakeholders-government.
- ❑ Collective Awareness raising, movement building and advocacy on research around care.
- ❑ Translating the index-popularizing and creating platforms for debate





THANK YOU

