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# Supporting decision-making to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs: Examples from Africa

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9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 Southampton



Bridging the gaps between research, policy, and practice





# 2023 SDG Report highlights mixed progress

## E.g., SDG 3 Health and wellbeing

### Progress:

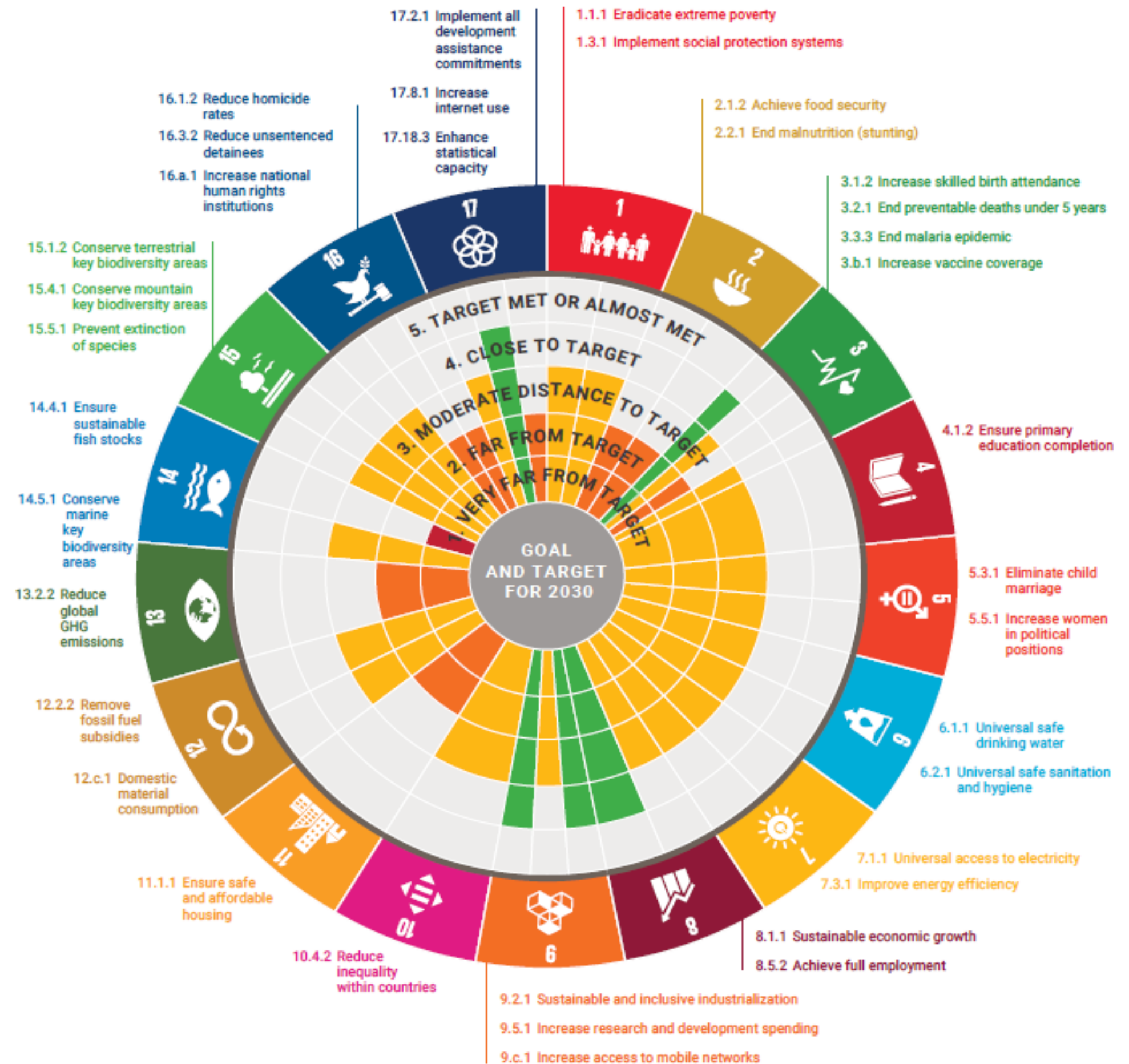
*Under-5 mortality; slowing down of new HIV infections*

### Lack of progress:

*Maternal deaths; surge in malaria cases*

*Missed immunizations for children in 2021*

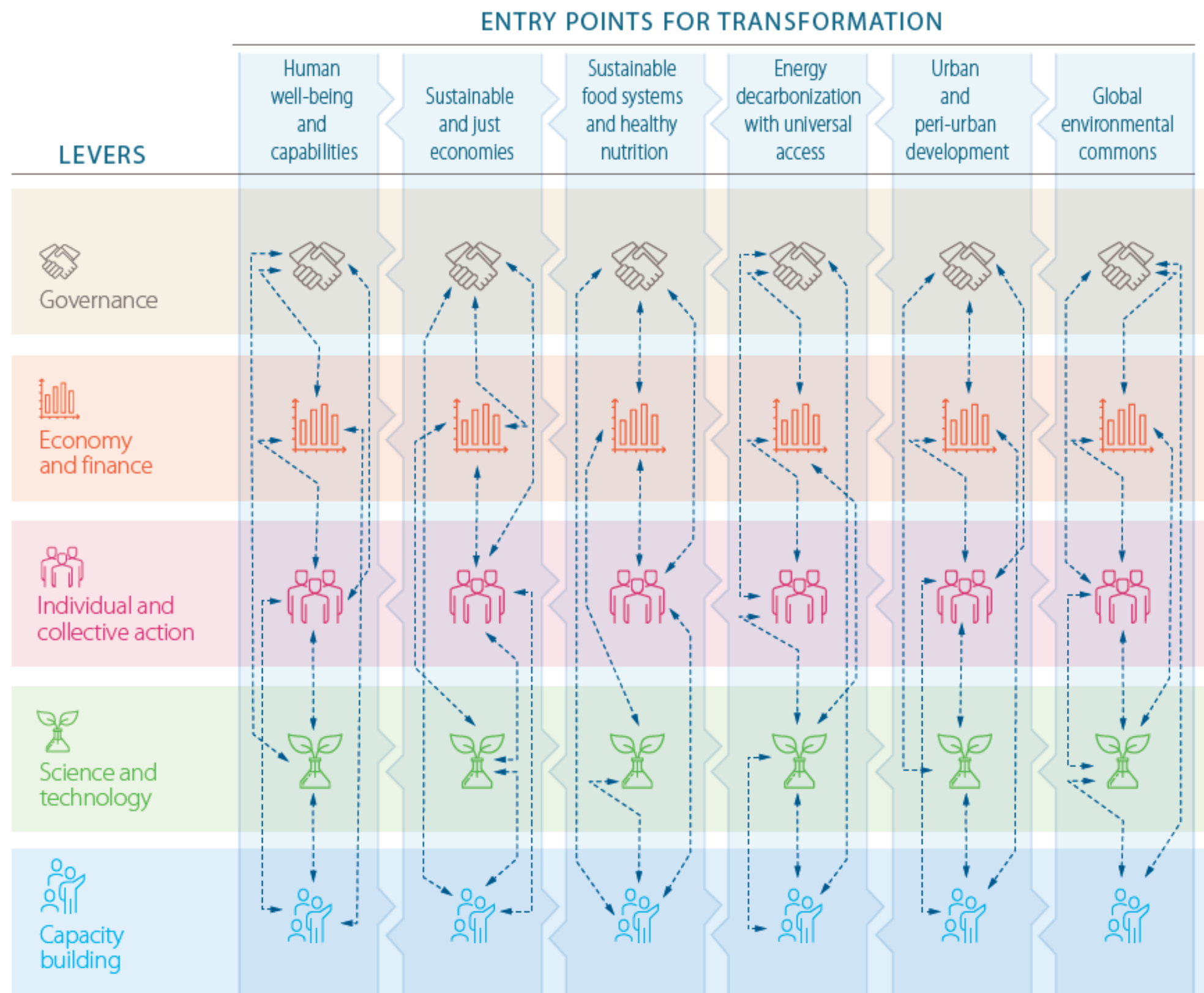
## CURRENT STATE OF PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BASED ON SELECT TARGETS



# Working through entry points for transformation

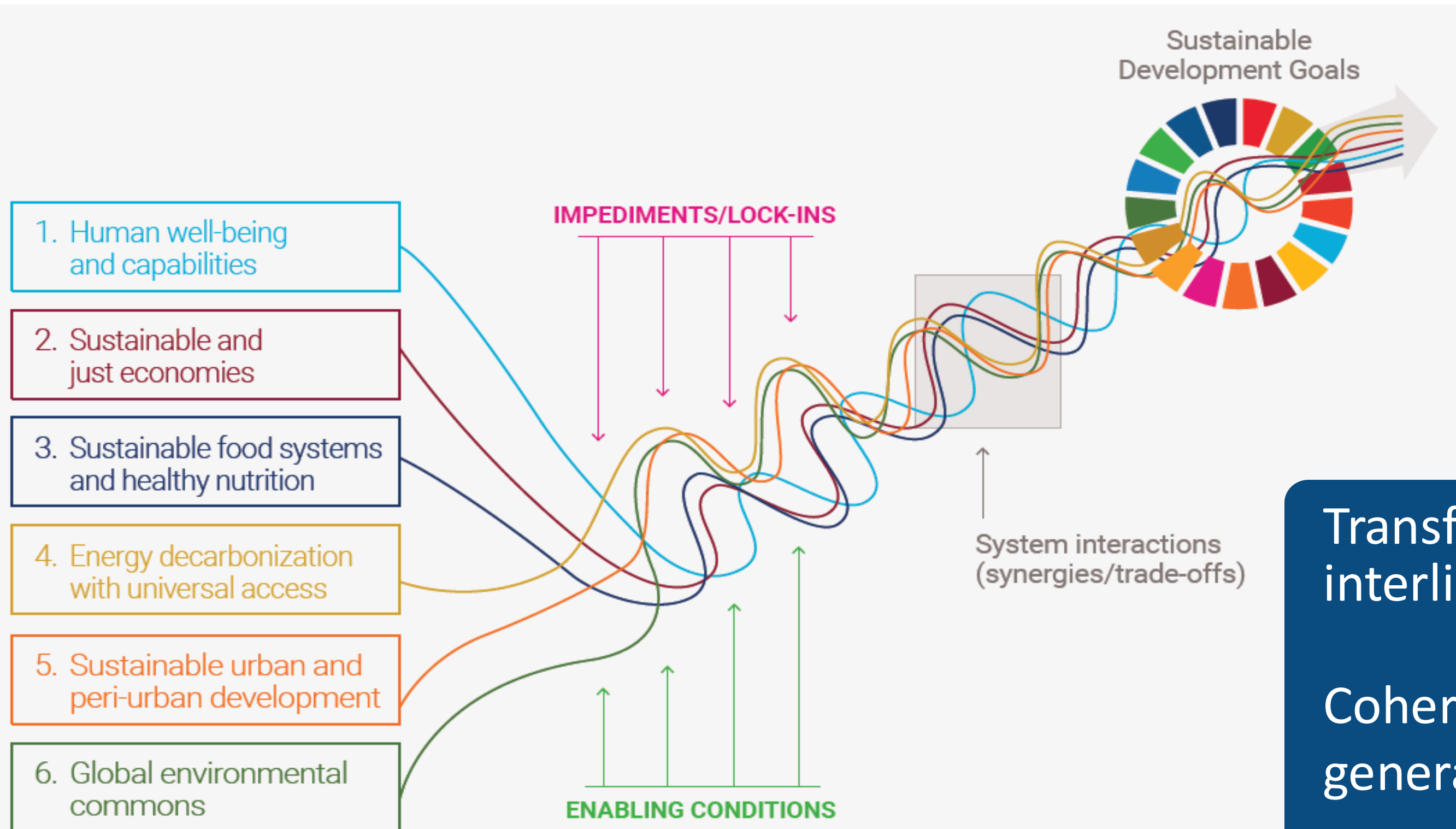
- Business-as-usual not an option
- Working through **six key entry points** to **leverage interlinkages** could unleash rapid progress.
- Locally relevant, synergistic and integrated processes that break down the silos of public service and policymaking.
- Levers need to work together in a cohesive manner to overcome impediments
- Capacity building is crucial for enabling transformation

TRANSFORMATIONS TO THE SDGS: ENTRY POINTS AND LEVERS





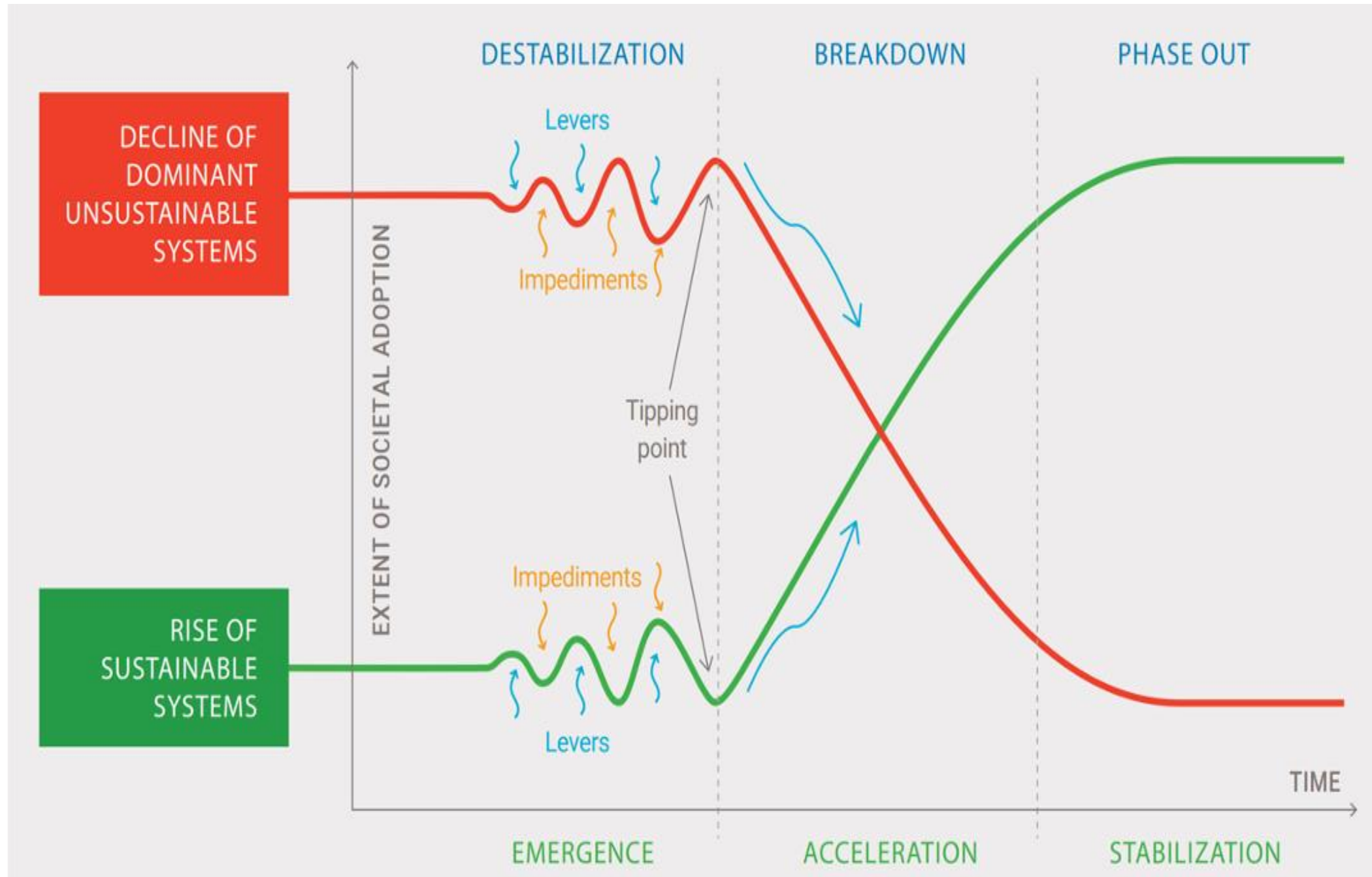
TRANSFORMATIONS ARE INTERLINKED ACROSS SYSTEMS – COHERENT ACTIONS CAN GENERATE SYNERGIES/MANAGE TRADE-OFFS



Transformations are interlinked across systems

Coherent actions can generate Synergies and manage trade-offs

# Driving Transformation through its phases on an S-curve



- Strategies for the SDGs must minimize impediments and support promising solutions specific to different phases of transformation:
  - **Emergence**
  - **Acceleration**
  - **Stabilization**
- Tipping points examples:
  - Major societal shifts in perspectives (single-use plastics)
  - Innovations suddenly become easier to use or more socially desirable (smart phone)
- **Strategic combinations of levers enable SDG solutions to move from emergence, to acceleration, to stabilization**

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# Examples from Africa: Putting countries on track for SGDs



# Reproductive Health, Maternal and Child Health

- Tracking the impact of COVID-19 on uptake of maternal and child health services in Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria
  - Use of heat maps to show sub-national progress
  - Political economy analysis- *who are the actors to influence, what are their priorities?*
- Assessing sub-national trends in demand satisfied by family planning services
- Monitoring and evaluation tracker for 1994 commitments on Population and Development



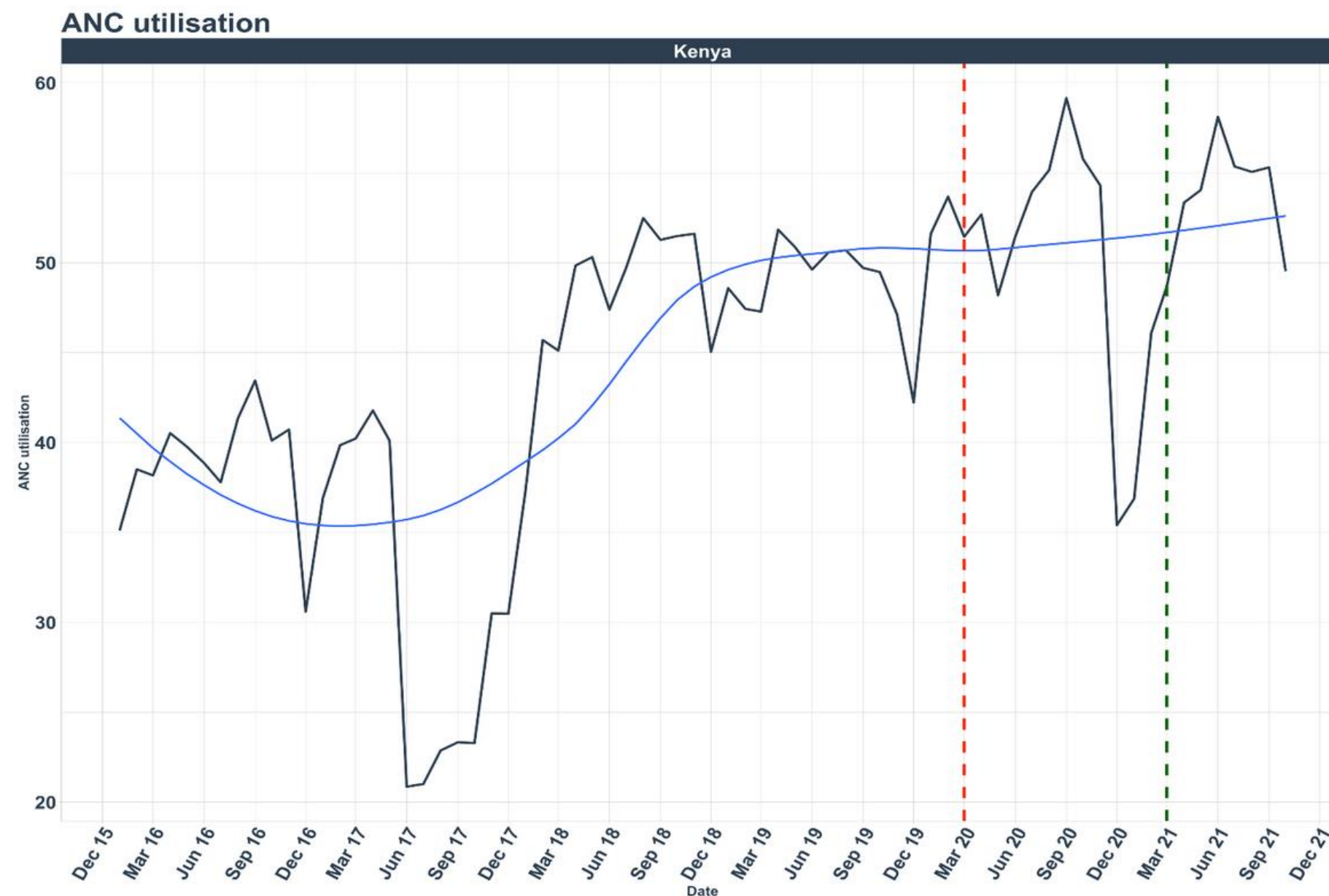


# Health Service Uptake: Antenatal Coverage in Kenya

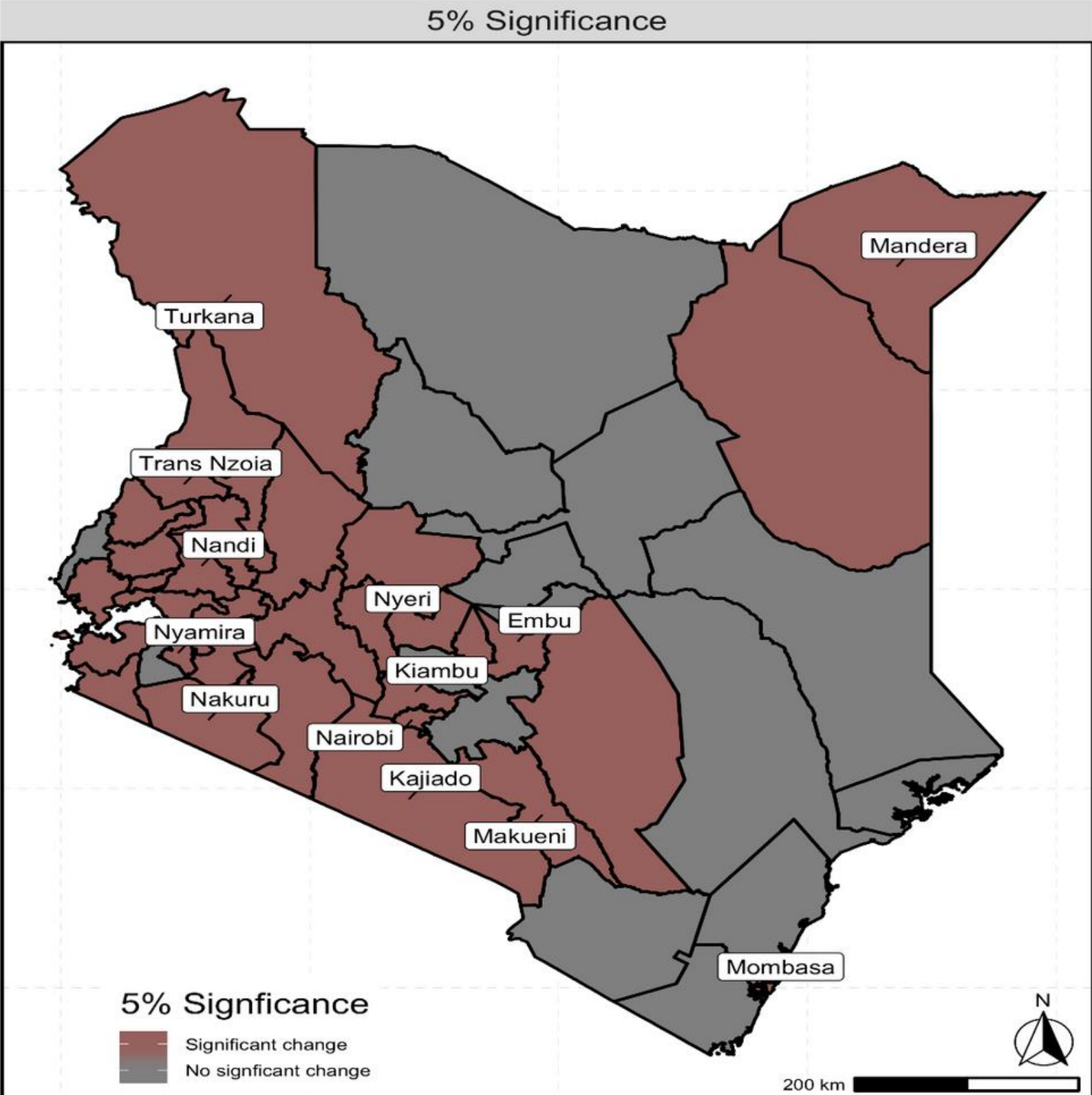
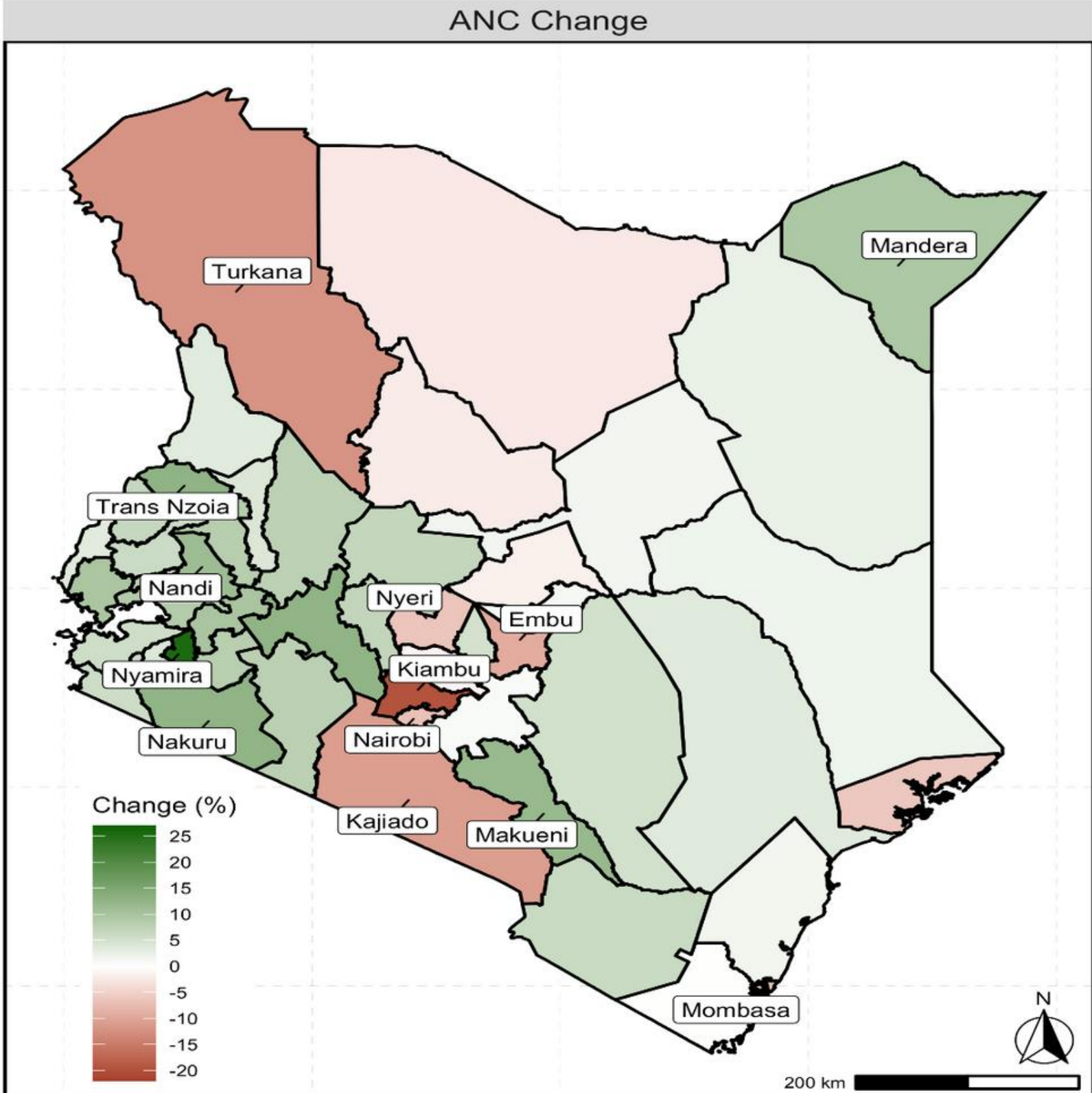


ANC coverage increased over time in Kenya

ANC utilisation. **Red line** is when the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Kenya and control measures effected. **Green line** is when the vaccines were rolled out.



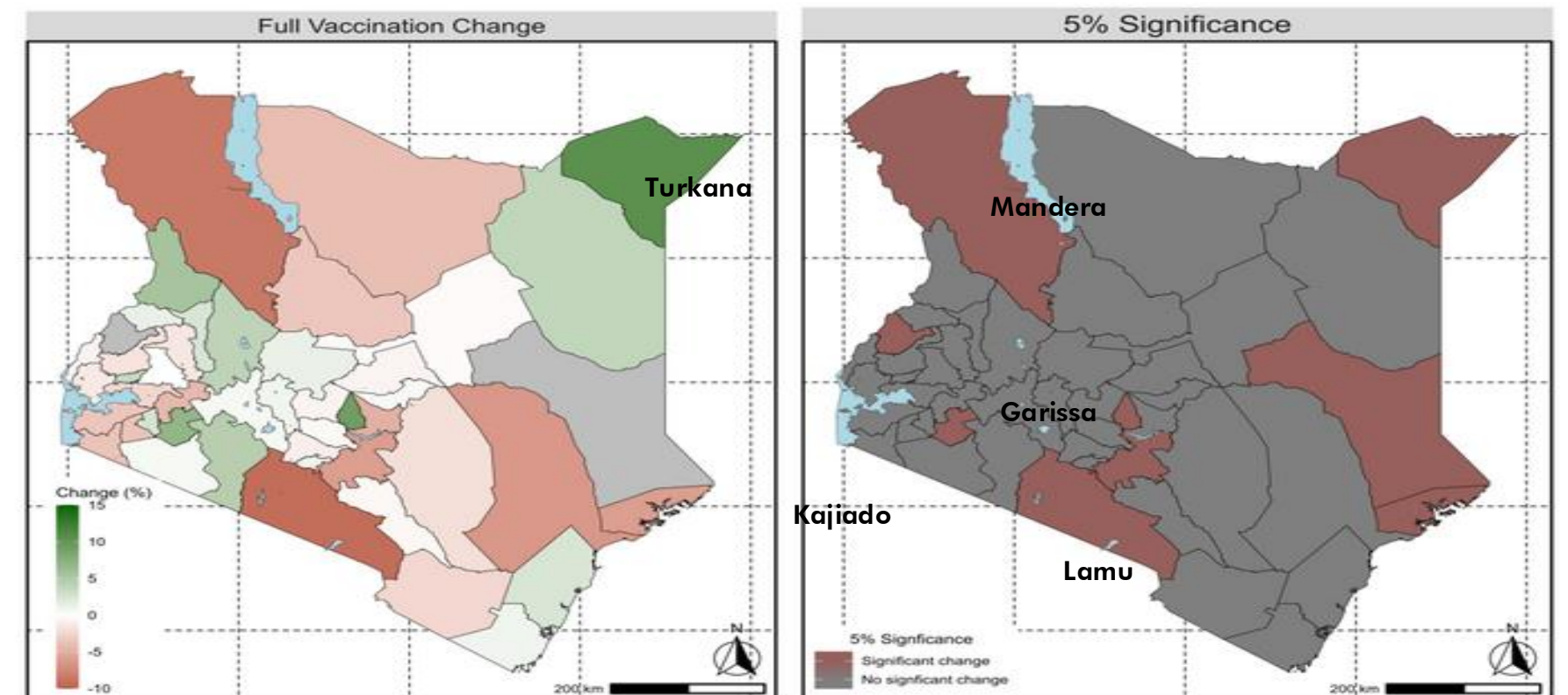
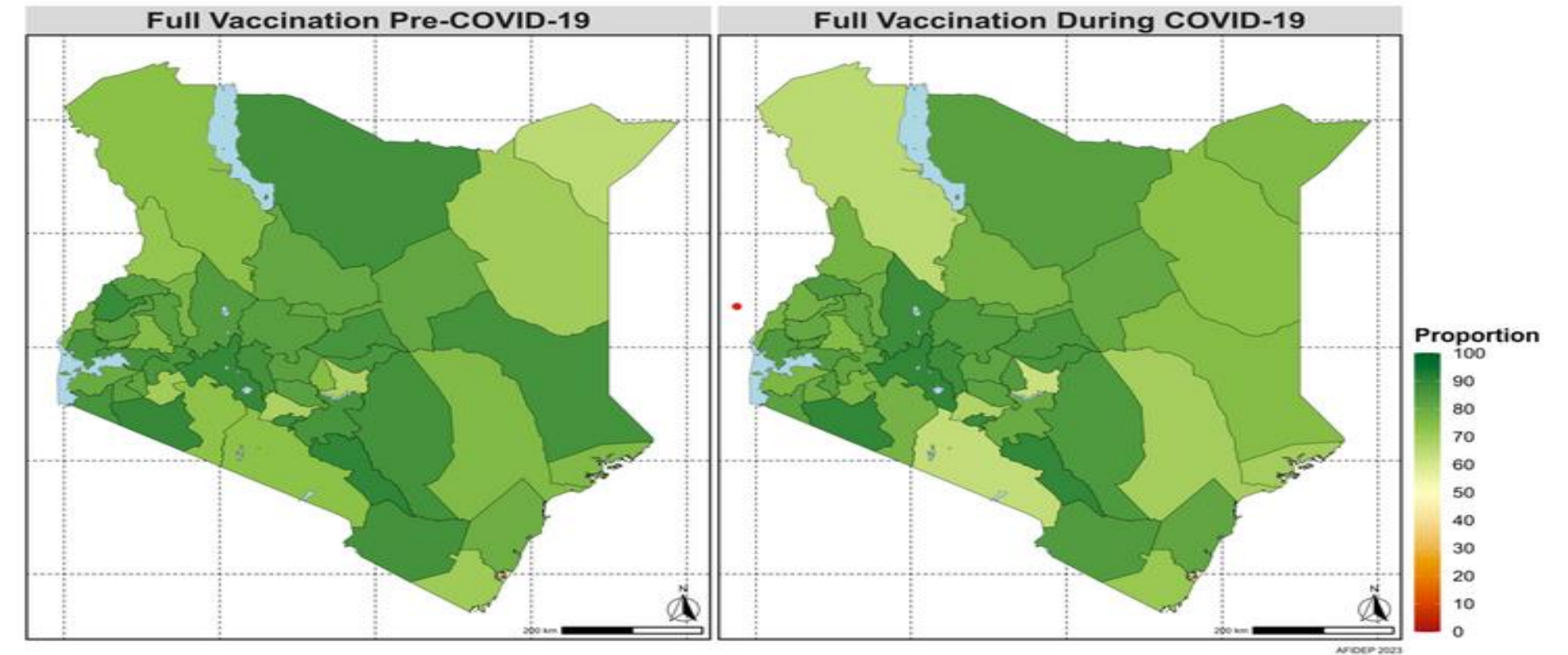
# Change in Antenatal Sub-national Coverage in Kenya: 2018-21





# Child Immunisation in Kenya, 2018-2021

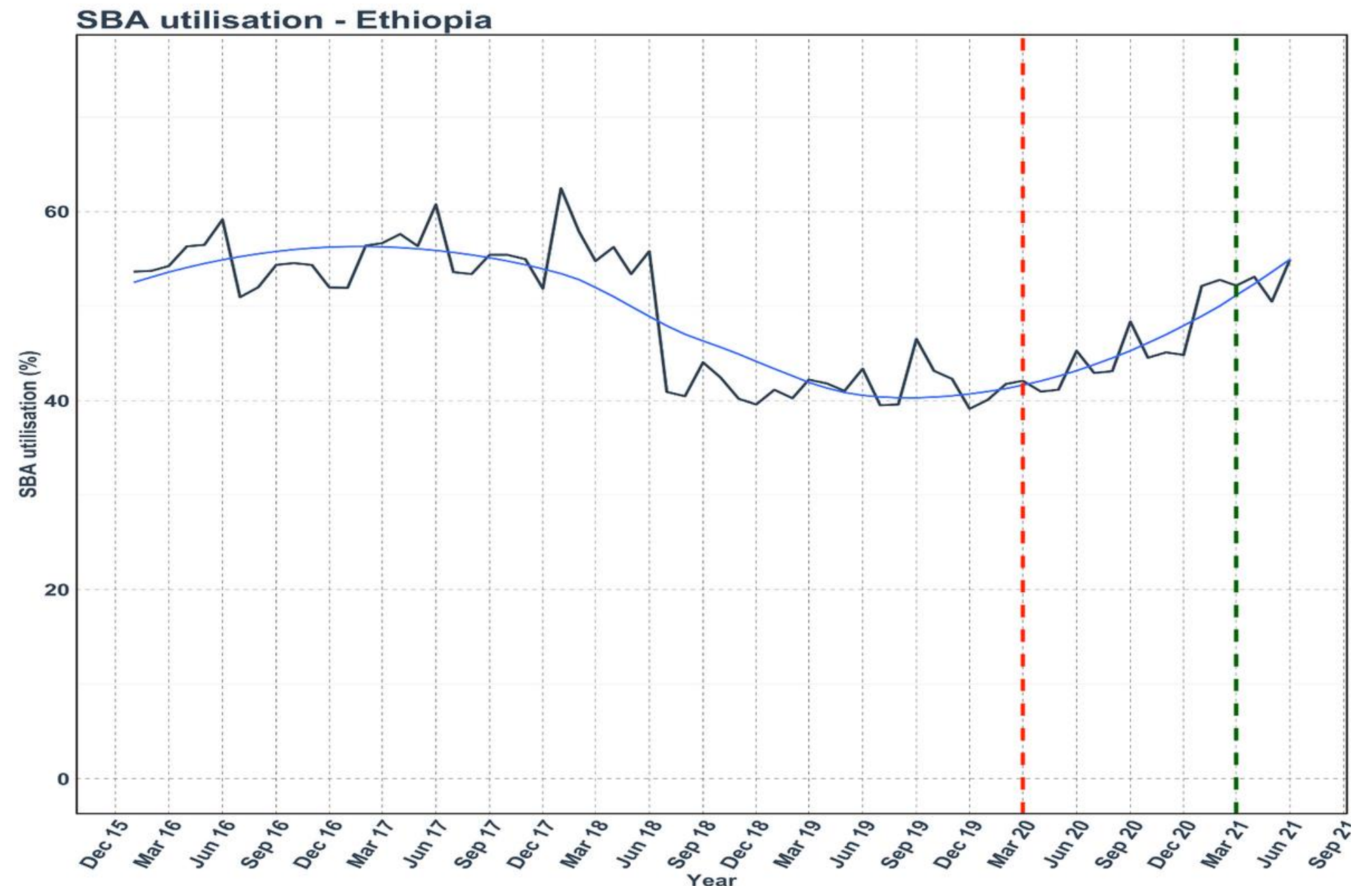
- All counties did not meet WHO's coverage threshold of 90% during the COVID-19 period
- Bungoma, Kajiado, Garissa, Lamu, Machakos, and Turkana counties reported significant decreases
- Mandera, Kirinyaga, and Bomet counties recorded a significant increase in full vaccine coverage



# Skilled Birth Attendance in Ethiopia

- Short of the WHO recommended 90% of Skilled Birth Attendants (SBA) coverage.
- Pre-2018, some decline in SBA utilisation nationally.
- Trends of increasing SBA during the COVID period

ANC utilisation. **Red line** is when the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Ethiopia and control measures effected. **Green line** is when the vaccines were rolled out.

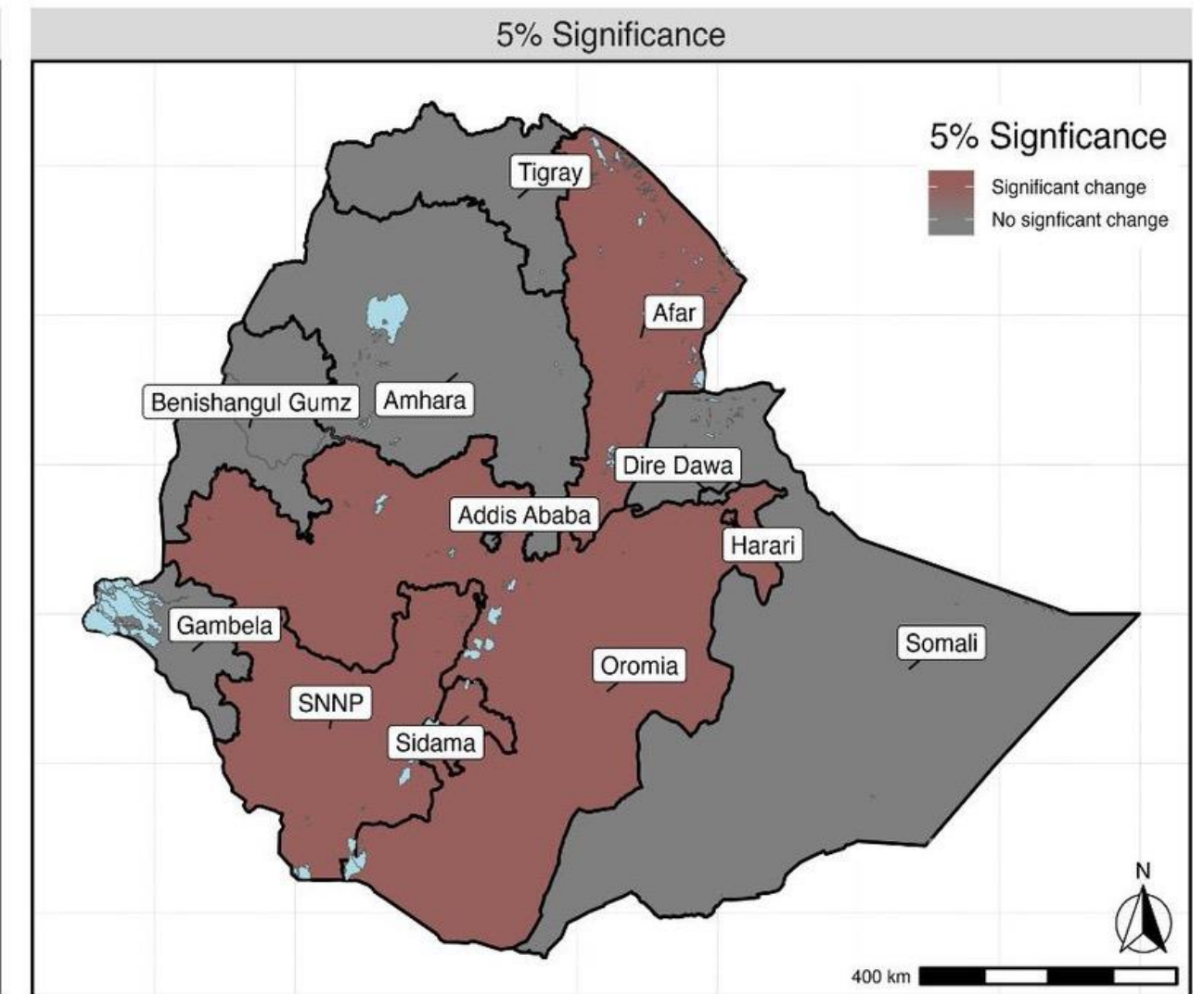
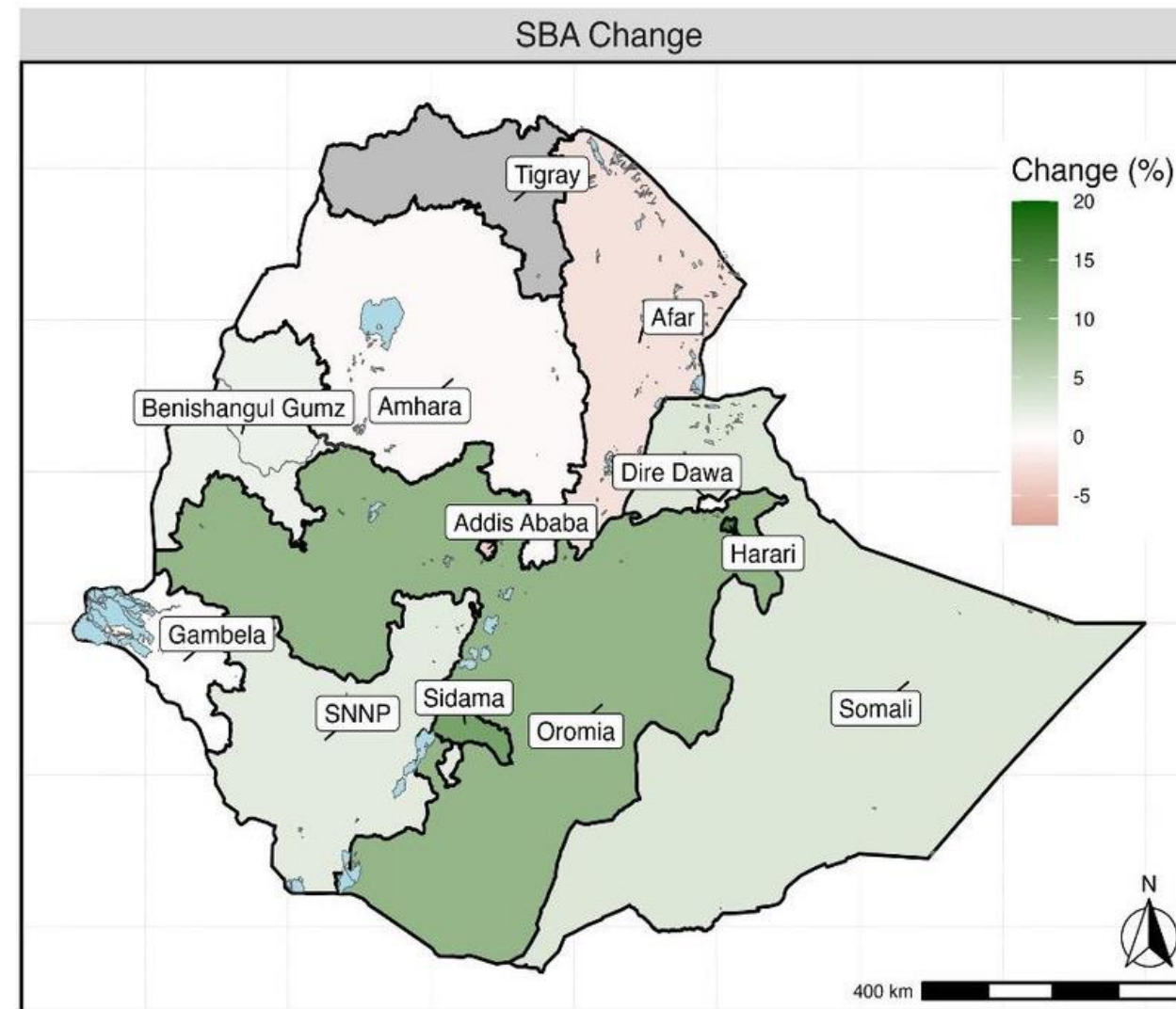




# SBA Sub-national Coverage in Ethiopia

Ethiopia experienced increases in SBA service utilisation

- Declines were more noticeable in the conflict parts of Ethiopia
- Climate change effects more disruptive than COVID-19
- Low resilience of healthcare systems





# Translating rising awareness and commitments to the SDGs into action

*The challenges and crises that impede SDGs progress are interrelated, fuelling intensities, but connections could be turned into **opportunities**.*

- Turn commitments into action and implementation at a scale.

Goal attainment will depend on all actors integrating the SDGs into core decision-making processes, financing mechanisms prioritizing SDG attainment, and strong mechanisms for accountability.





# What does 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report recommend?



- Establish National SDG Transformation Framework
  - National prioritizing of key SDGs
  - Work with business and local governments
  - Provide finance and **integrate SDGs** in budgeting
- Drive transformation through its phases
  - Build capacities for transformation
  - Identify interventions for six entry points, use science to assess interlinkages and international spill-overs
- Improve critical, underlying conditions for SDG implementation
  - (conflict, fiscal space, climate adaptation)
- Work with science – Invest in R&D and Open Science

# Thank you



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