



EUROPEAN CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The background features several abstract, organic shapes in muted colors: a light green shape in the top right, a light blue shape in the bottom left, and a light orange shape in the bottom right. Thin, curved lines in matching colors are scattered across the white background.

The world after the Covid-19 pandemic:  
**Multilateralism** for a better future

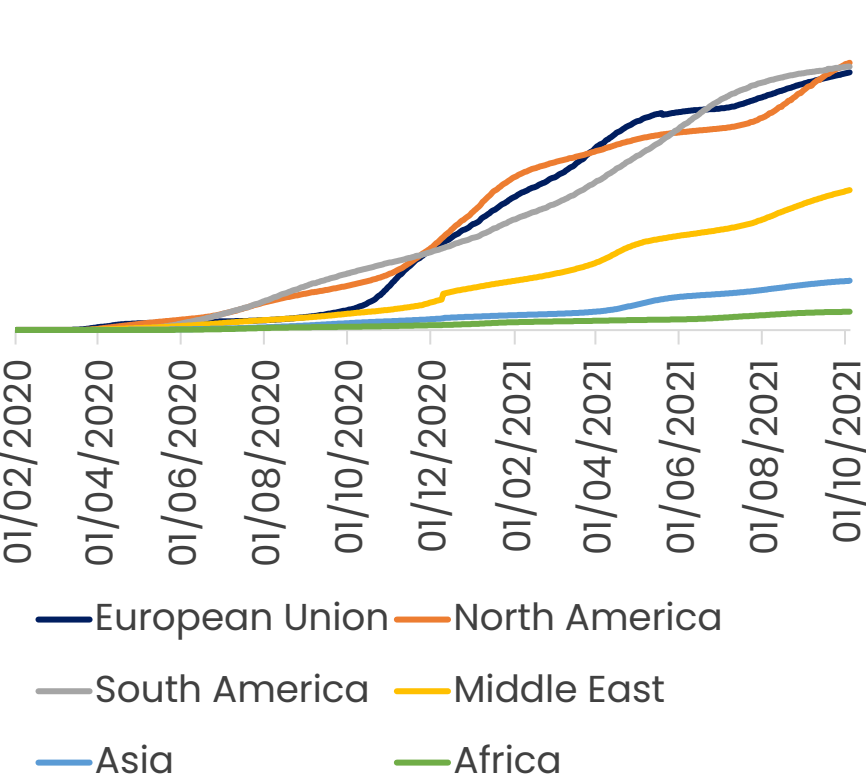
# Key messages

---

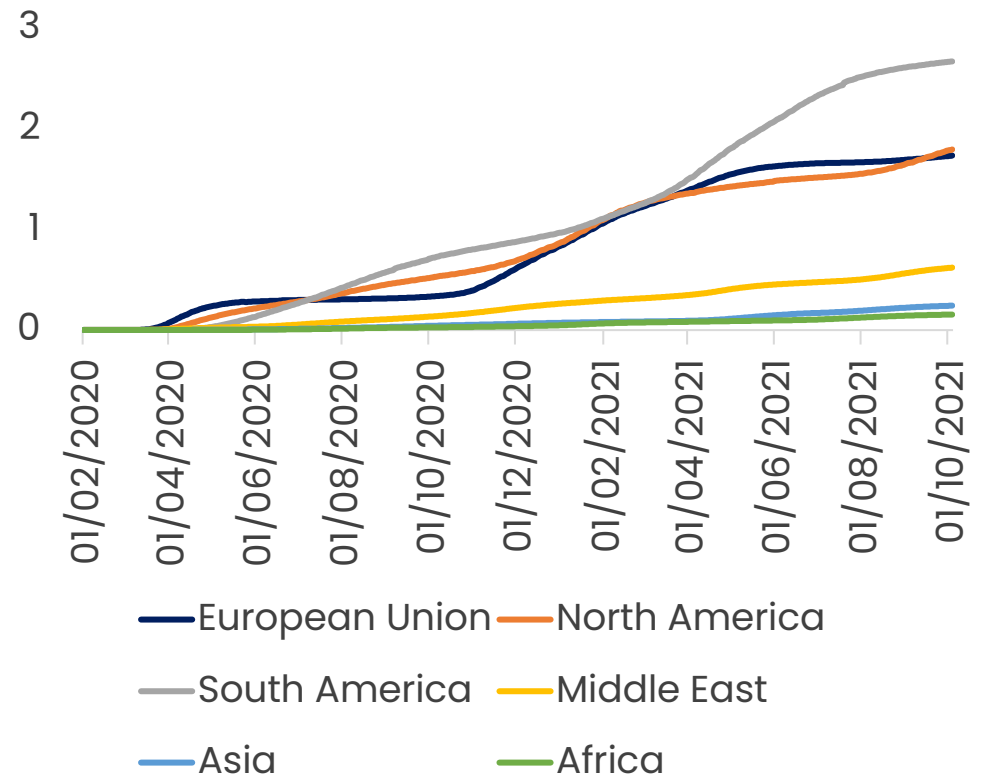
- **Covid-19** affected all countries and regions showing the global interconnectedness and reviving the need for multilateral approaches
- **Speed and pervasiveness of the response** has been unbalanced among regions
- **Pre-existent differences in healthcare systems** contribute to this heterogeneity, with Sub-Saharan Africa particularly disadvantaged in terms of per capita spending and availability of infrastructures
- **\$26 billion investment gap** in healthcare infrastructures in Africa must be overcome to effectively address the specific needs of the continent
- **collaboration between the public and private sectors (PPPs)** and **international cooperation** at all levels are key to achieve this goal

# Covid-19 had a global impact affecting all geographical areas around the world ...

**Total cases of Covid-19 in world regions per 1 million people (in thousands), 2020-2021**



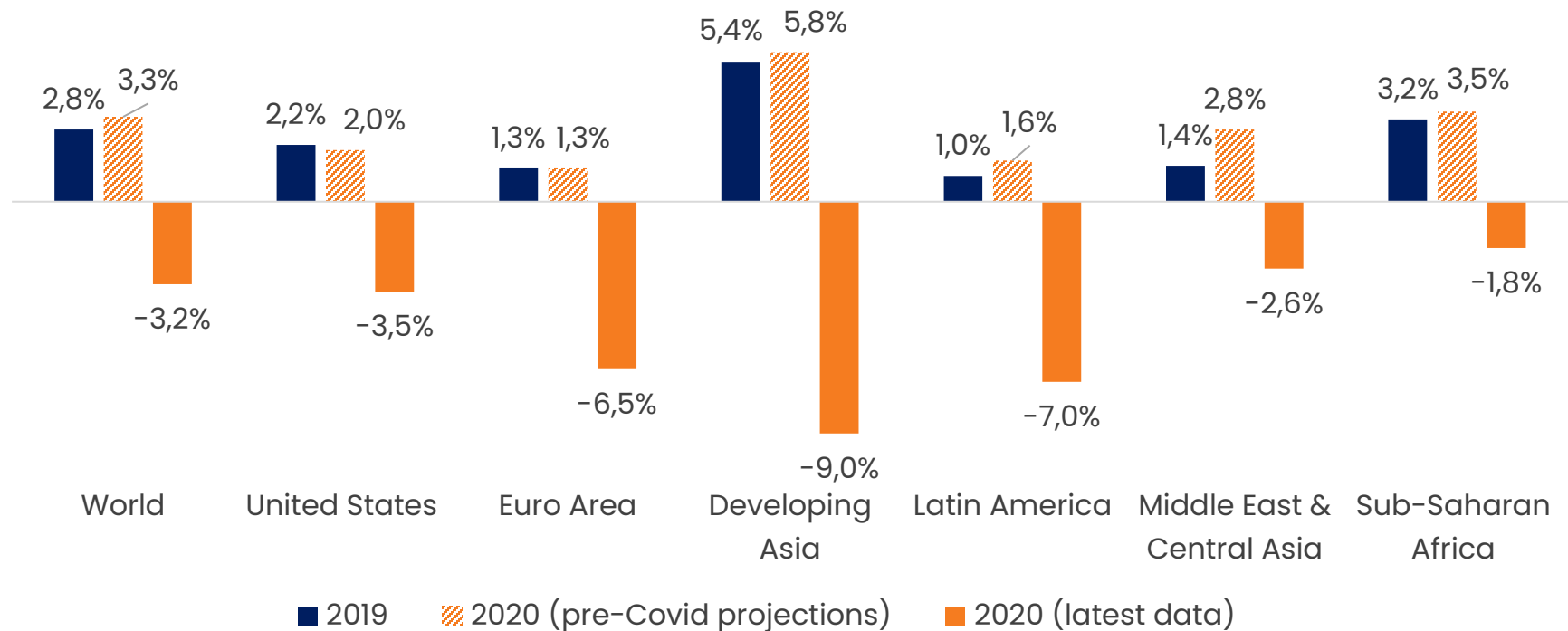
**Total deaths of Covid-19 in world regions per 1 million people (in thousands), 2020-2021**



Source: The European House – Ambrosetti on World Health Organization data, 2021.

# ... likewise, it caused a divergence from the previous economic growth path in all regions

GDP growth in world regions in 2019 and 2020 vs. pre-pandemic projections\* (% change), 2019-2020

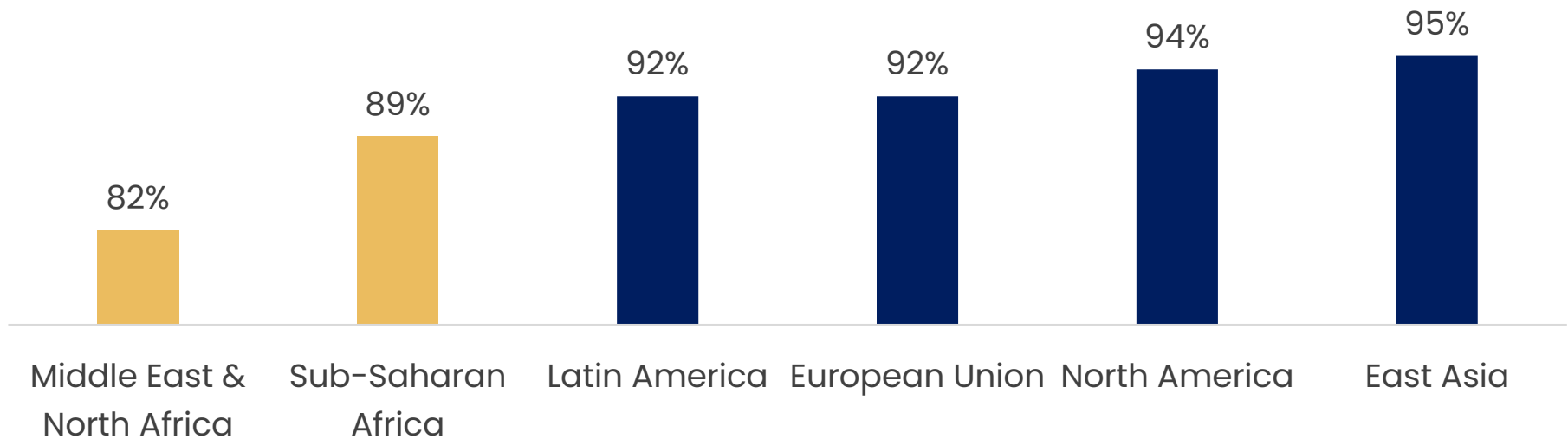


Source: The European House – Ambrosetti on International Monetary Fund data, 2021.

\* Projections calculated as of January 2020.

# At the same time, the Covid-19 crisis has revived the need for cooperation and multilateralism

Share of population that believes international cooperation is vital in each region  
(% of respondents), 2020

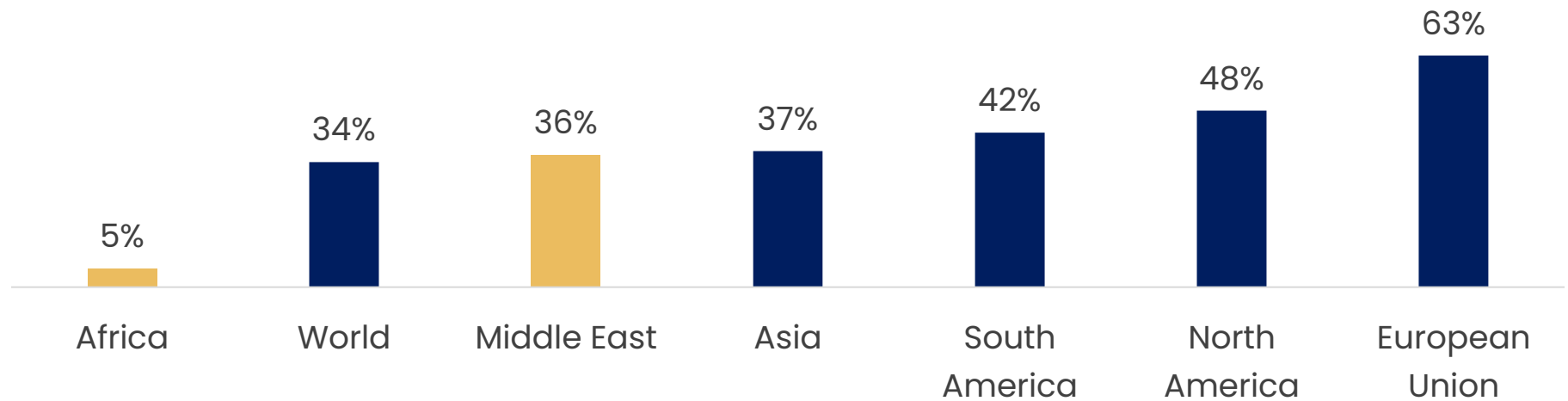


**87% of respondents believe global cooperation is vital** to deal with the current challenges and that the pandemic made **international cooperation even more urgent**

Source: The European House – Ambrosetti on United Nations survey on “The future we want; the United Nations we need”, 2020.

# However, vaccination rates have not been equally aligned, with implications for economic growth

**Vaccination coverage rate in world regions**  
(% of total population), October 2021



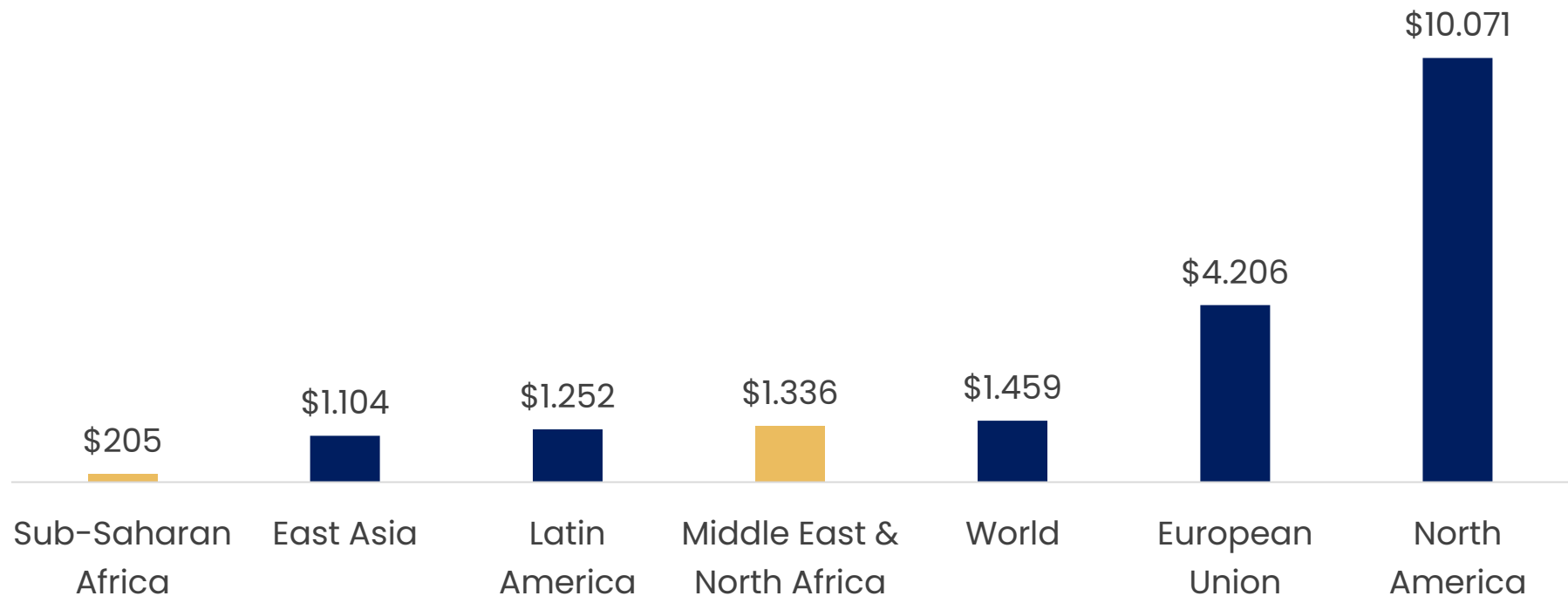
The recovery rate will be faster for countries with higher vaccination rates: **~US\$7.9 bln increase in global GDP per mln people vaccinated.**

If in the first trimester of 2021 the vaccination rates of low-income countries had been in line with those of high-income countries, their growth prospects would have been revised by +1 p.p. (**+US\$38 bln GDP forecast in 2021**) compared to the previous forecast

Source: The European House – Ambrosetti on World Health Organization data and UNDP estimates, 2021.

# This imbalance reflects pre-pandemic inequalities in healthcare with Sub-Saharan Africa lagging behind

Current health expenditure per capita at PPP  
(US dollars), 2018

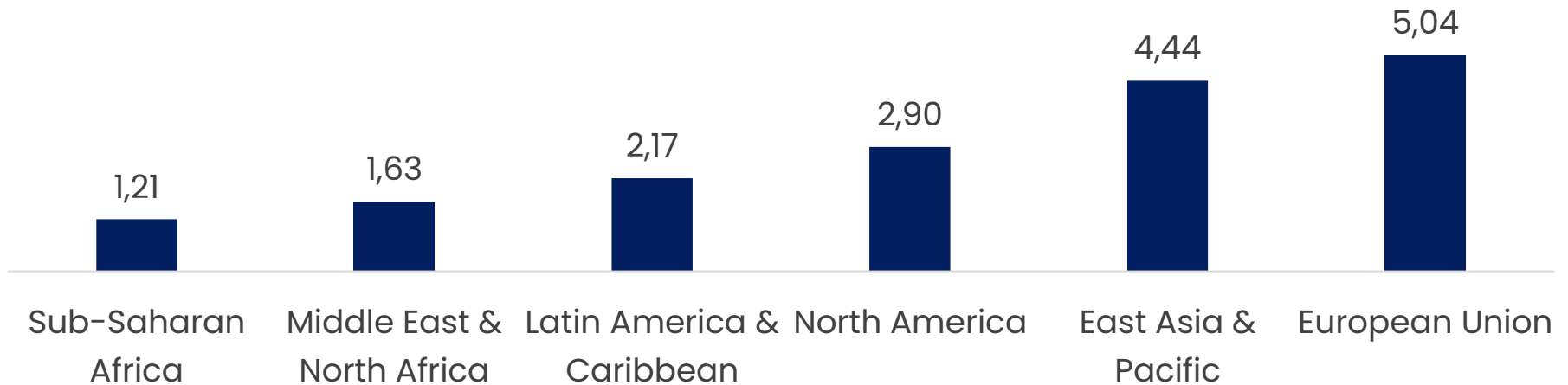


Source: The European House – Ambrosetti on World Health Organization data, 2018.



# A key point of concern is related to the scarcity of health infrastructures in the region ...

Number of hospital beds per 1,000 population,  
latest data available



**Within Africa, further imbalances exist** considering hospital beds per 1,000 population: Eastern and Western Africa report less than 1 bed while Southern, Northern and Central Africa register 1.7, 1.6 and 1.4 beds, respectively.

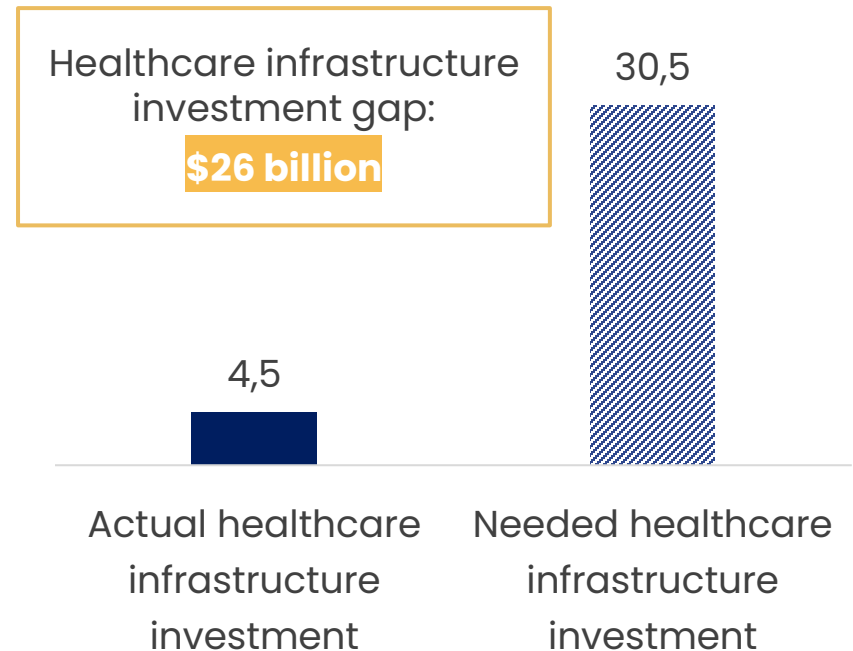
**Infrastructure quality** is also an issue: only 46% of health facilities have access to basic water and 29% to basic sanitation services in Sub-Saharan Africa

Source: The European House – Ambrosetti on World Health Organization data, 2018.

# ... due to a financing gap of around \$26 billion annual investment in healthcare infrastructures in Africa

- African governments are currently **investing ~\$4.5 bln/year** in public health capital expenditure vs. **\$30.5 bln/year** needed
- Only **10–20% of investment** in healthcare infrastructure is currently mobilized by the **private sector** (mainly brownfield investment to expand existing hospitals)
- Investing in modern and adequate facilities and in regional centers of excellence can help African countries **reduce outbound medical tourism**, protecting foreign exchange reserves and channeling the resources back into their health systems
  - Currently, Africans spend **>\$1 bln** yearly in **“medical tourism”**

## Investment in healthcare infrastructure in Africa, actual and needed (billion US dollars)



Source: The European House – Ambrosetti on African Development Bank data, 2021.

# International cooperation and the private sector have a key role in addressing this infrastructural shortage

## International cooperation and PPPs in healthcare infrastructure building in SSA: key points of attention



Construction of hospital infrastructure requires **skills and expertise** that are not common to general constructors. These must be paired with the ability to operate within the specific business environment of Sub-Saharan Africa, making the choice of private partners a crucial element for the success of the initiatives



Investment and projects should be focused on the real needs of each country and also based on the **understanding of specific characteristics** (diseases, demographic prospects, etc.) **of the Sub-Saharan Africa region**



**International cooperation** is also crucial to raise the funds needed to build hospital and healthcare infrastructure. The EU, UN and other major international institutions (World Bank, EIB, etc.) have also allocated funds. In addition, major NGOs and individual countries can contribute to finance multilateral, **public-private initiatives**

Source: The European House – Ambrosetti on African Development Bank data, 2021.

# PPPs and international cooperation can also contribute to address other issues of SSA Healthcare

---

- With greater participation from the private sector (corporations, private investors and private foundations), **public-private partnerships** can accelerate research models and support strategic projects for medium/long-term competitiveness at the national level and a concerted response towards sustainable recovery at the global level
- In 2019, the **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) 2030's Private Sector Constituency** affirmed principles of action, including:
  - Offering **quality products and services** at affordable, accessible and sustainable prices, thanks to their role as providers
  - **Delivery of critical supplies and diagnostic tests:** the Pandemic Supply Chain Network (PSCN) has worked to accelerate the delivery of critical supplies to frontline health emergency responders around the world, including personal protective equipment (PPE), blood tests, and instruments
  - **Innovations in diagnostics and treatment:** private sector partnership with the US government on a joint \$1 billion effort to develop the Janssen Covid-19 vaccine
  - **Mobile health and digital solutions:** in Kenya, AMREF Enterprises is supporting mobile health applications for remote training of health workers and dissemination of information to households



VIA SENATO 12  
20121 MILANO (ITALY)  
T. +39 02 8935 4826

[WWW.ECAMCOUNCIL.COM](http://WWW.ECAMCOUNCIL.COM)