

DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

AFRICA 2050

AFRICA WILL ADD *950 million* PEOPLE BY 2050.

Of the world's net population growth in that period, more than 60% will happen on this continent. Five of the eight countries driving global growth are African.

AFRICA'S POPULATION TRAJECTORY



THE STAKES

THE YOUNGEST POPULATION ON EARTH

ASSET OR *crisis?*

Africa has the world's youngest median age. That youth bulge is either a demographic dividend — or a ticking clock. It depends entirely on what we do with education right now.



60%

Of Africans are under 25

Africa is the world's youngest continent by median age and proportion of youth population.



65%

Jobs don't exist yet

65% of children entering school today will work in job categories that don't yet exist, driven by technology.



5

African countries top growth

DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania will each account for a disproportionate share of global population growth to 2050.



600M

Working-age Africans by 2030

Africa's working-age population is projected to reach 600 million by 2030 — larger than China's or India's today.

THE EDUCATION GAP

BUT RIGHT NOW

THE SYSTEM IS *failing them.*

❗ Only 29% complete upper secondary school

In sub-Saharan Africa, upper secondary completion rose from 20% in 2000 to just 29% in 2024 — still below one in three children. (UNESCO Completion Rate data, 2024)

📖 Fewer than half reach minimum proficiency

Less than half of students in sub-Saharan Africa meet minimum proficiency thresholds in assessments, vs. 86% in developed countries. (ISS African Futures / UNESCO)

📈 Only 14.2% of tertiary graduates are in STEM

In sub-Saharan Africa, just 14.2% of tertiary graduates studied science and engineering in 2019 — the fields considered vital to the future of work. (African Center for Economic Transformation)

💰 \$77B annual education finance gap

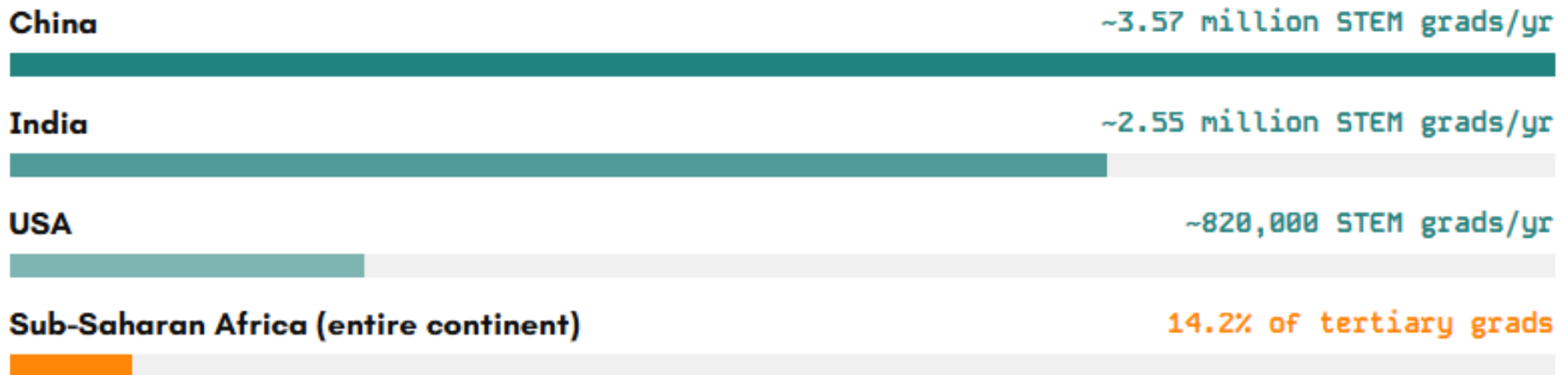
The average annual financing gap for education across Africa stands at US\$77 billion — while many countries are investing less per student than in 2015. (UNESCO/AU Continental Report, 2024)

THE GLOBAL STEM RACE

THE WORLD ISN'T WAITING

AFRICA IS *falling behind.*

While Africa faces its demographic surge, other nations are already industrialising their STEM pipelines at a scale that compounds the gap every year.



Note on Nigeria: A figure of 50,000 STEM graduates/year is widely cited in advocacy but lacks a verified primary source. Nigeria's total university enrolment is approximately 1.7M (World Bank, 2020), and only 14.2% of tertiary graduates across sub-Saharan Africa are in STEM — suggesting the actual figure is in this general range but should be treated as approximate until NUC publishes audited data.

THE WINDOW IS CLOSING

**WE EITHER ACT NOW —
OR WATCH ANOTHER
GENERATION MISS
*the technological era.***

STEM literacy isn't optional.

It's survival.

The demographic dividend only pays out if young Africans can participate in the knowledge economy. Comics are how we catch them early, keep them curious, and build the pipeline no one else is building.

[STEMcomics.africa](https://stemcomics.africa)

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All statistics sourced from UN WPP 2024, UNESCO 2024, WEF Future of Jobs 2016, ISS African Futures, AirSwift/UNESCO STEM rankings 2025