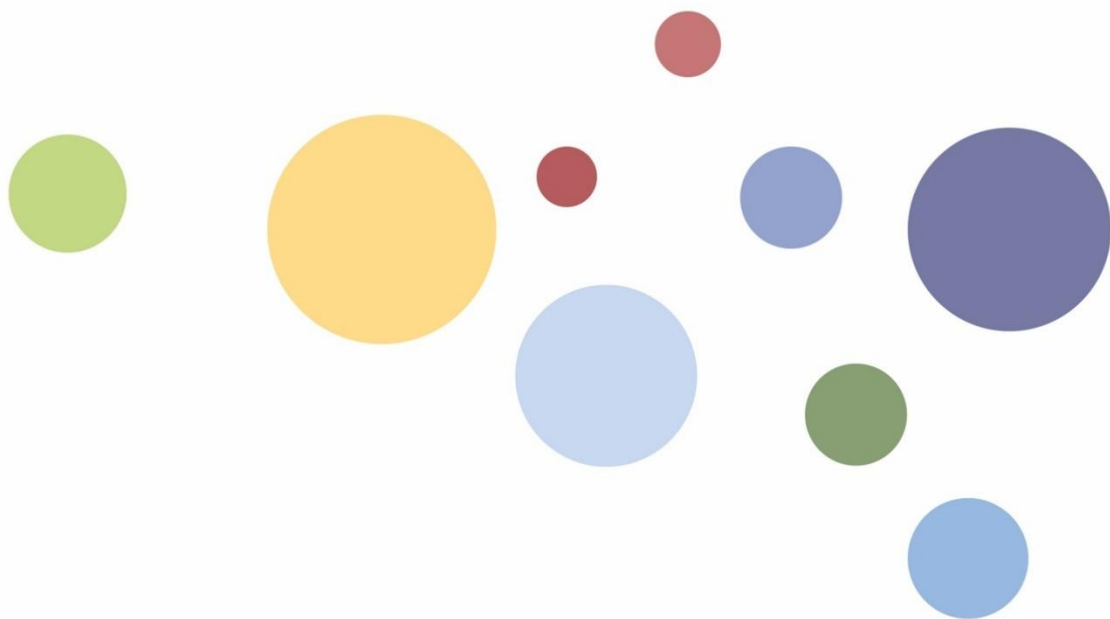


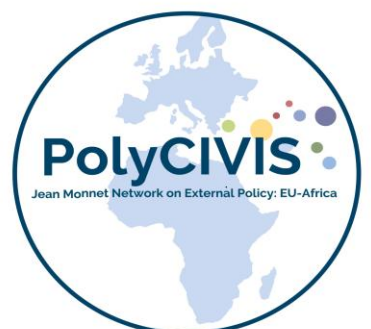
Polycrisis and the attainment of sustainable development goals in Africa

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By Saheed Akinmayowa Lawal



The Polycrisis & Policy Brief Series is coordinated by the *Policy Work Package* which is part of [the PolyCIVIS Network](#). The PolyCIVIS Policy brief series aims to provide actionable insights and recommendations for policymakers, at various levels and to foster dialogue among stakeholders on effective policy responses.



Executive Summary

Africa is at the centre of a growing global polycrisis in an era characterized by overlapping crises including climate change, debt distress, pandemics, and governance failures. These interconnected threats are compounding structural vulnerabilities and stalling progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This policy brief addresses the critical question: How can Africa overcome the systemic barriers posed by polycrisis to achieve the SDGs by 2030?

As global crises continue to emerge and re-emerge in ways that affect social life across the world, both 'short-term and fast-moving triggers' such as climate change, wars, political instability and uprising, global protest, the threat of infectious diseases, global inflation, and growing socio-economic inequalities affect the attainment of sustainable development goals across the world especially in Africa. That is, growing climate shocks, conflicts, and humanitarian crises continue to occur in Africa. For example from 2018 and 2023, there has been a 51% increase in internal displacement¹. This challenge requires prompt regional cooperation to meet transboundary issues and share resources efficiently.

Within the context of Africa, the notion of a poly-crisis is particularly relevant due to the continent's exposure to a wide range of socio-economic, political, environmental, and health-related issues that interact in ways that tend to hinder sustainable development.

The policy brief explains that polycrisis presents significant challenges that hinder the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. The interconnected nature of different crises that occur simultaneously in Africa easily undermines the progress made in tackling one crisis after another. This brief addresses the issue of polycrisis and its effect on achieving the SDGs in Africa. To achieve the SDGs, there will be a need to: Strengthen Regional and Continent-wide Cooperation; Increase Climate Finance and Green Investments; Provide Debt Relief and Sustainable Fiscal Policies; and Invest in Human Capital and Inclusive Governance. The attainment of the SDGs in Africa will depend on the collective responsibility of Africans to attain these goals and have a better society.

Key messages

- ❖ Structural and systemic failures, including economic inequality, environmental degradation, and fragile governance, perpetuate a state of "permacrisis" in Africa, causing crises to become quasi-permanent and deeply interlinked.
- ❖ Tackling Africa's polycrisis requires integrated and systemic policy responses, including strengthened regional and continental cooperation, scaled-up climate finance, comprehensive debt relief, and investments in inclusive governance and human capital development.
- ❖ Without urgent and innovative approaches that move beyond siloed problem-solving, Africa's efforts to meet critical goals such as poverty eradication, climate resilience, peacebuilding, and health improvements will remain significantly impaired.

¹ IDMC, 2024

(1) Introduction

Polycrisis in contemporary times

Present-day dynamics have brought about an era that is being recognised increasingly by academics and policymakers as a 'polycrisis' which constitutes a complex situation wherein multiple crises, interrelated and interdependent, converge to produce adverse effects greater than what they would create, had they occurred in isolation.² Global leaders now confront multiple crises that are occurring all at once: over 80% expect these ongoing crises to interact and compound on an increasingly volatile trajectory³. As a concept which was first coined in the 1970s and has been popularised by Historian Adam Tooze, Polycrisis is defined as "the causal entanglement of crisis in multiple global systems in ways that significantly degrade humanity's prospects"⁴. According to Brosig⁵, "a polycrisis consists of crises which emerge as a combined consequence of crisis-specific individual, and possibly disconnected, causes and causes which are linked to other crises". That is, polycrisis "refers to the concurrent social happenings of several interconnected crises that occur within a region or a social system, affecting people's lives and impacting on other social crises making it difficult and complex to address despite available solutions"⁶.

The contemporary polycrisis showcases the interactions between the recent pandemics, the war in Ukraine, and the energy, cost-of-living, and climate crises⁷ along with broader issues of political instability, socioeconomic inequalities, and technological disruptions. This interconnectivity is reflected in 51% increases in destructive internal

displacement over a span of five years, hitting the 75.9-million mark in 2023, highlighting how conflicts, violence, and disasters intertwine with bigger social and economic crises⁸.

Africa confronts a unique set of events occurring daily despite the continent's vulnerability as cascading events inflict sequential shocks over it. These events combined depict a continent in crisis and need of assistance. The need to perceive the political economy of health among the matrix of global interconnectivity becomes more paramount when considering multifactorial and concurrent synergistic impacts⁹. The interconnectedness of crises today calls for integrated approaches: regional cooperation, scaled climate finance, sustainable fiscal policies, and inclusive governance investments must be strengthened as they address not one but several challenges.

Why does polycrisis persist?

Polycrises continue to persist because of underlying structural and systemic failures that generate self-perpetuating cycles of instability across many African countries. This has led to a state of Permacrisis which refers to a prolonged period of instability that witnesses crises never fully resolving but instead becoming quasi-permanent conditions-e.g., chronic socioeconomic inequalities, progressive environmental degradation, and democratic decline¹⁰. Across Africa, for many decades countries have constantly undergone different phases of permacrisis causing the continued existence and occurrence of the scale of polycrisis being experienced today. In addition, permacrisis has evolved into global dimensions of play crisis. At present,

² Lawrence, Homer-Dixon, Janzwood, Rockstöm, Renn, & Donges, 2024; McNamara & Bamba, 2025.

³ World Economic Forum, 2023

⁴ Lawrence, 2024.

⁵ Brosig, 2025

⁶ Lawal, Adedeji, & Oggunniyi, 2024

⁷ Whiting & Park, 2023

⁸ IDMC, 2024

⁹ McNamara & Bamba, 2025.

¹⁰ Lawrence et al., 2024

polycrisis has become a global phenomenon that affects the social fabric of society and limits the way society functions progressively.

Over time, polycrisis has become entrenched with governance systems being unable to engage with interconnected challenges in a comprehensive manner. This trend, passing through the global threats of climate change, conflict, and the lingering effects of COVID-19, craves better data and research evidence that can account for its complexity¹¹. Conventional sectoral or siloed approaches to policymaking have little chance of coping with cascading risks that are beyond sector boundaries. Systemic vulnerabilities are further exacerbated by water security facing multiple stressors in the emerging polycrisis of the Anthropocene, with great acceleration challenging planetary boundaries¹². Because change is happening faster than institutions can adapt, gaps in governance keep allowing one crisis to spread and lock into the next.

Knowing why the poly-crisis sticks around is what makes the policy ideas put forward here so urgent. Its root causes call for stronger regional cooperation that tackles cross-border weak spots, larger climate finance that builds systems-level resilience, debt relief that cuts the repeated squeeze of financial stress, and governance that welcomes all voices so institutions can adapt faster. These measures focus on causes rather than just symptoms.

(2) Polycrisis in Africa and its discontents

Africa exemplifies the dire incidence of the modern-day poly-crisis, where interrelated crises, from geopolitical conflicts, the pandemic and other emerging disease threats, have disrupted supply processing, increased trade costs, and disrupted

investments in aggravating the structural weaknesses and vulnerabilities of Africa¹³. Being exposed to one fearsome crisis is already severe; Africa continues to face inordinate circumstances of exposure to multiple crises at the same time, where traditional coping mechanisms do not work anymore.

Every new chronicle of neglect makes the African poly-crisis challenge much more severe, with almost all of the 2024 worst-funded humanitarian challenges now on the continent¹⁴. Neglect of this order, in humanitarian terms, just makes vulnerabilities worse and constitutes another vicious cycle in which response to a given crisis is chronically underfunded, while the stated needs continue to grow at an exponential rate.

The continent-wide security deterioration serves as an example of a polycrisis, with Mali itself reporting a rise of 288% in human rights violations and 66% in cases of violence against women and girls between 2023 and 2024¹⁵. Such escalating figures are emblematic of how conflicts often merge with governance failures to form cascading impacts across various sectors.

The African Development Bank views these accumulating crises as threats to immobilize Africa in a continuous emergency response mode, as it must urgently shift resources toward building sustainable and resilient growth that yields jobs and equity.¹⁶ Such acceleration of an emergency crisis makes long-term development planning and allocating resources in a sustainable manner impossible.

The discontents of Africa's polycrisis directly necessitate immediate actions to address and enable Africa to stand firm in its pursuit

¹¹ Kwamie et al., 2024

¹² Scheffran, 2025

¹³ UNCTAD, 2024

¹⁴ Lawal, 2025

¹⁵ IRC, 2024

¹⁶ African Development Bank Group, 2025

to attain sustainable development goals. Hence, there is a need for strengthened regional cooperation to address cross-border security and economic challenges, scaled climate finance to build resilience against environmental shocks, comprehensive debt relief to break cycles of

financial constraint, and inclusive governance investments to enhance institutional capacity. These interventions specifically target the interconnected nature of Africa's polycrisis landscape, moving beyond emergency response toward sustainable transformation

Table 1: Occurrence of polycrisis and its implications on sustainable development in Africa

Country	Polycrisis example	Implications for sustainable development
Nigeria	1) Boko Haram insurgency → agricultural collapse & displacement ¹⁷	Attacks reduce agricultural output, disrupt markets, displace farming households and destroy human capital — setbacks to SDG1 (poverty), SDG2 (food security) and SDG4 (education).
	2) Recurrent climate-driven flooding (urban & riverine) ¹⁸	More frequent/severe floods damage housing and infrastructure, increase waterborne disease and displacement — undermining SDG3 (health), SDG11 (resilient cities) and SDG13 (climate action).
South Africa	1) Prolonged electricity crisis (load-shedding) ¹⁹	Recurrent power outages reduce industrial output, raise operating costs and increase unemployment — slowing progress on SDG8 (decent work), SDG9 (industry & infrastructure) and macroeconomic stability.
	2) COVID-19 + deep structural inequality ²⁰	The pandemic amplified pre-existing inequalities and informal-sector vulnerabilities, increasing poverty and unequal access to health/education, negative impacts on SDG1, SDG3 and SDG10 (reduced inequality).
Ethiopia	1) Armed conflict (Tigray war & spillovers) ²¹	Large-scale violence produced mass displacement, destroyed health/education infrastructure and impeded humanitarian access — direct setbacks across human-development SDGs (1,2,3,4).
	2) Recurrent droughts/climate shocks ²²	Repeated drought lowers crop and livestock productivity, increasing acute food insecurity and eroding livelihoods — threatening SDG2 (zero hunger) and resilience (SDG13/SDG11).
Somalia	1) Compound climate shocks (droughts → floods) & famine risk ²³	Successive droughts followed by floods destroy pastoral/agricultural livelihoods and trigger displacement — severe threats to SDG2, SDG6

¹⁷ Adelaja & George, 2019

¹⁸ Umar & Gray, 2022; Aborode et al, 2025

¹⁹ Erero, 2023

²⁰ Schotte & Zizzamia, 2022

²¹ McGowan, et al, 2025

²² Gebre et al, 2024

²³ Warsame, et al, 2023

		and humanitarian outcomes.
	2) Conflict + weak governance interacting with climate stress ²⁴	Ongoing insecurity and governance gaps limit state capacity to respond to climatic shocks, compounding crises and delaying recovery, harming multiple SDGs (governance, health, food security).
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	1) Protracted armed conflict & conflict-minerals economy ²⁵	Illicit mineral exploitation funds armed groups, drives local violence and environmental degradation — undermines SDG15 (ecosystems), SDG8 and the rule of law (SDG16).
	2) Recurrent Ebola (and other outbreaks) interacting with insecurity ²⁶	Infectious-disease outbreaks are harder to control where conflict limits access and trust; outbreaks disrupt health services and local economies — setbacks to SDG3 and overall resilience.

Table 1 shows how polycrisis affects African countries (Nigeria, South Africa, Ethiopia, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo), with its implication on sustainable development and how it affects the attainment of the SDGs. As seen in Table 1, polycrisis describes the interconnected nature of multiple, overlapping crises that interact in ways that amplify their impacts on societies, economies, and governance systems. Unlike isolated shocks, polycrisis occur when distinct disruptions—such as conflict, climate change, pandemics, and economic instability—compound one another, producing cascading effects that hinder sustainable development in Africa. As a result of structural vulnerabilities and weak institutional resilience in Africa, these various crises have an impact on the countries in various ways. In *Nigeria*, the Boko Haram insurgency has disrupted agriculture, displaced communities, and undermined human development²⁷, while recurrent flooding, intensified by climate change, erodes infrastructure and public health.²⁸

South Africa faces a dual crisis: chronic energy shortages through load-shedding, which constrain economic productivity²⁹, and deep inequality exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁰ These overlapping stressors reflect how economic and social systems can simultaneously destabilise.

Additionally, in *Ethiopia*, the Tigray conflict destroyed health and education infrastructure, while recurring droughts worsen food insecurity, creating a cycle of humanitarian crises³¹. *Somalia* illustrates another polycrisis setting, where climate shocks such as droughts and floods interact with protracted conflict and weak governance, reinforcing famine risks and population displacement.³² The *Democratic Republic of Congo* exemplifies the intersection of insecurity, resource exploitation, and health emergencies. Armed conflict and illicit mining fuel instability, while repeated Ebola outbreaks—exacerbated by violence—strain its fragile health systems.³³ Table 1 shows that polycrisis does not occur

²⁴ Nor & Raheem, 2025

²⁵ Hanai, 2021

²⁶ Wells, et al, 2019

²⁷ Adelaja & George, 2019

²⁸ Umar & Gray, 2022

²⁹ Erero, 2023

³⁰ Schotte & Zizzamia, 2022

³¹ McGowan et al., 2025; Gebre et al, 2024

³² Warsame et al., 2023; Nor & Raheem, 2025.

³³ Wakenge et al, 2021; Wells et al., 2019

in isolation but interacts to amplify vulnerabilities. Recognising and addressing polycrisis conditions is critical for advancing sustainable development goals in Africa.

Polycrisis as a Challenge in Africa and the Attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals

Polycrisis strongly obstructs Africa's fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), creating a complex web of interconnected challenges that impair progress toward different development targets. Each risk and crisis overlaps and intersects with others, intensifying each other, and only by doing so can the polycrisis hold the region in perennial instability. Globally, only 16 per cent of SDG targets stand on track toward completion by 2030, while the rest show either limited progress or outright reversal in the advancement. This global measure has a sting for Africa with structural vulnerabilities setting off great harms of crises. This has led to an increase in extreme poverty levels in sub-Saharan Africa especially in fragile and conflict-affected countries.³⁴

The 2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report notes that the SDGs under review focus on ending poverty (Goal 1); ending hunger (Goal 2); combating climate change (Goal 13); encouraging peaceful societies (Goal 16); and enhancing global partnerships (Goal 17).³⁵ Yet, under the influence of the polycrisis, these priority areas are seriously disturbed, with climate displacement, conflict food insecurity, and economic shocks all undermining the attainment of multiple SDG targets.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report

2024 describes the enduring gaps SDGs are aiming to address with a focus on climate change, conflict and security both within and between nations, inequality in all of its dimensions, and the systemic drivers that erode progress.³⁶ Africa is at the centre when it comes to those concerns as it suffers from aggravated consequences such as climate vulnerability and persistent conflicts along with long-lasting inequalities posing greater hindrances towards sustainable development.

The cyclical nature of these crises means that advancements in poverty alleviation can be wiped out due to climate shocks. In addition, advancing healthcare alongside education is thwarted due to conflict which further intensifies these issues. There are numerous other obstacles such as stagnation in construction caused by economic turmoil along with insufficient governance hampering institutional capacity building which is vital for SDG attainment especially because it impacts the construction of necessary infrastructures.

Understanding polycrisis as a fundamental barrier to SDG attainment in Africa directly informs the necessity for comprehensive policy interventions. The interconnected nature of these challenges demands strengthened regional cooperation to address cross-border crisis spillovers, scaled climate finance to build resilience against environmental shocks, debt relief to restore fiscal space for SDG investments, and inclusive governance to ensure sustainable development strategies reach all populations. These recommendations specifically target the systemic barriers preventing SDG progress, moving beyond siloed approaches toward integrated context-specific solutions.

³⁴ World Bank, 2024

³⁵ Africa Sustainable Development Report, 2024

³⁶ United Nations, 2024

Addressing the Polycrisis and Achieving the SDGs in Africa

Addressing polycrisis and achieving the SDGs in Africa requires innovative approaches that incorporate culture-sensitive interventions and context-specific strategies to address all forms of polycrisis. The 2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report emphasizes "reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions".³⁷ This integrative perspective acknowledges that a siloed strategy is ineffective in addressing the complexity of challenges of contemporary African development.

Innovative collaboration has become imperative during the ongoing poly-crisis, as strategic policy actions are needed to strengthen the government-industry partnerships to achieve prosperity³⁸ and address existing social issues. Also, the need for community-led development-oriented programmes across all sectors of governance will enable integrated actions to be taken with the capacity to identify and settle risks and threats as they emerge for rapid recovery.

Youth engagement is a game-changer, with the real engagement of technology-conscious young Africans through labour in any industry having the potential to create an additional economic value of \$136 billion by 2030.³⁹ In addition to the science, technology, and innovation capability built through collaborations like the Coalition on STI for Africa's Development, presents opportunities for leapfrogging development challenges into sustainable development across the continent.

These synergistic approaches to addressing

polycrisis and achieving SDGs underpin the suggested policy solutions. It is evident that increased regional cooperation facilitates knowledge sharing and coordinated responses, scaled climate finance enables comprehensive adaptation steps, debt relief creates fiscal space for integrated development spending, and inclusive governance brings locally differentiated outcomes to every part of society. These are complementary interventions that transform crisis management into sustaining faster sustainable development.

(3) Policy Recommendations

Achieving the SDGs in Africa requires comprehensive policy interventions that address the structural barriers created by polycrisis. With Africa on track to reach only less than three of the 32 SDG targets under review, and Africa set to pay out \$163 billion just to service debts in 2024, up sharply from \$61 billion in 2010, urgent policy reforms are essential to restore development momentum.⁴⁰ The current debt burden fundamentally threatens SDG achievement, particularly in the health, education, and infrastructure sectors. Therefore these policy recommendations are suggested:

1. **Strengthen Regional and Continental Cooperation** emerges as a critical priority, with the need for enhanced coordination mechanisms that address cross-border challenges while leveraging economies of scale. The Africa Sustainable Development Report 2024 emphasizes integrating the 2030 Agenda with Agenda 2063 to deliver sustainable, resilient solutions during multiple crises⁴¹. Regional cooperation frameworks must facilitate knowledge sharing, technology

³⁷ International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2024

³⁸ Carney, 2024

³⁹ Eziakonwa, 2025

⁴⁰ African Development Bank Group, 2024

⁴¹ UNDP, 2024

transfer, and coordinated policy responses to polycrisis challenges.

2. **Increased Climate Finance and Green Investments** represent an urgent imperative, with Africa disproportionately impacted by climate change-induced severe weather, despite negligible contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions. Strategic priorities for Africa in the post-2025 climate finance framework must prioritize adaptation financing, loss and damage mechanisms, and just transition investments that create sustainable employment opportunities. Therefore, "climate-specific finance is counted as climate finance for a just, fair and equitable fossil fuel transition".⁴²
3. **Debt Relief and Sustainable Fiscal Policies** become indispensable given that nine African countries are in debt distress and 11 are at high risk, with average public debt at 67% in 2024. Policy options must reconcile rising debt costs with development needs through integrated national financing frameworks

(INFFs) that unlock diversified financing sources for SDG implementation.

4. **Investing in Human Capital and Inclusive Governance** requires transformative approaches that address governance deficits while building institutional capacity. Leaders call for reparatory justice through global governance reform, debt relief, climate action, and addressing epistemic injustice as systemic causes of Africa's disadvantaged position⁴³.

These policy recommendations are not exhaustive but can be used to address the poly-crisis challenges identified throughout this policy brief. They provide integrated solutions that transform structural vulnerabilities into development opportunities, ensuring that Africa can achieve sustainable development despite contemporary global challenges. The recommendations work synergistically to create enabling environments for SDG acceleration across all sectors in Africa.

Table 2. Policy recommendations for achieving the SDGs in Africa

Recommendation	Examples of Implementation	Relevant SDGs Advanced
1. Strengthen Regional and Continental Cooperation	(i) African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) promoting intra-African trade and industrialization	SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)
	(ii) Cross-border disease surveillance systems (e.g. Africa CDC networks)	SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), SDG 17
	(iii) Joint renewable energy grid projects (e.g. Inga Dam, Desert to Power)	SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action)
	(iv) Regional education and research collaborations (e.g. AU Pan-African University)	SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 17

⁴² CARE, 2024

⁴³ UN-OSAA, 2024

2. Scale Up Climate Finance and Green Investments	(i) Mobilizing international funding for climate adaptation (e.g. GCF projects in the Sahel)	SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities)
	(ii) Promoting green job creation through solar and wind energy industries	SDG 8, SDG 7, SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption)
	(iii) Investing in sustainable agriculture and agroforestry	SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 13
	(iv) Supporting low-carbon transportation systems (e.g. electric mobility)	SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 13
3. Debt Relief and Sustainable Fiscal Policies	(i) Debt-for-climate swaps to free resources for climate resilience	SDG 13, SDG 17
	(ii) Reallocating funds to public health and education from debt servicing	SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)
	(iii) Fiscal reforms to increase domestic resource mobilization for SDG priorities	SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 8, SDG 16 (Peace, Justice & Institutions)
	(iv) Transparent public financial management systems	SDG 16, SDG 17
4. Invest in Human Capital and Inclusive Governance	(i) Universal access to quality primary and secondary education	SDG 4, SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10
	(ii) Expanding access to primary health care and maternal services	SDG 3, SDG 1, SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation)
	(iii) Youth and women empowerment through skills training and entrepreneurship	SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9
	(v) Strengthening democratic institutions and citizen participation	SDG 16, SDG 17

Furthermore, each of these policy recommendations will require specific resources and monitoring indicators to enable Africans to achieve the SDGs amidst polycrisis. Examples of specific resources and monitoring indicators are: (a) Strengthen Regional and Continental Cooperation (The particular resources will be realised through dedicated funding for the AU and RECs (ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD) to enhance joint crisis response mechanisms. The indicator will be centred on the number of joint regional initiatives/projects addressing cross-border crises; (b) Scale up Climate Finance and

Green Investments (The specific resources are public-private partnerships (PPP) for renewable energy and climate-smart agriculture. The indicator will be the installation of renewable energy capacity (MW) and the established hectares of land under climate-smart agriculture. (c) Debt Relief and Sustainable Fiscal Policies (The specific resources are domestic resource mobilisation through digital tax systems and anti-corruption reforms. The indicator will be the share of fiscal space allocated to health, education, and infrastructure (% of national budget); and (d) Invest in Human Capital and

Inclusive Governance (the specific resources will involve strengthening civic participation platforms, transparency, and rule of law institutions. The indicator will focus on governance indicators (e.g., World Governance Indicators: rule of law, control of corruption). With these specific resources and indicators as examples, Africa may likely be able to achieve the SDGs despite the occurrence of a polycrisis.

4. Conclusion

The cross-cutting and chronic character of the polycrisis in Africa is perhaps the biggest challenge to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2030. Interconnected crises ranging from climate shocks, debt crises, and health crises to conflict and state collapse have interconnected to create a network system of risks eroding development gains and increasing inequalities. As seen in this policy brief, the polycrisis is more than a collection of single problems but a recursive dynamic of disturbance which must be understood and

addressed.

As such, increasing regional cooperation would inform the need for knowledge sharing on what works and what does not work, and possible strategies. The adoption of contextually relevant approaches for climate finance would enable African countries to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. In addition, getting debt relief creates fiscal space for transforming the public financing management systems across countries. Also, investment in human capital will lead to enormous transformation across the continent.

Addressing the polycrisis is not just a matter of risk management but of reshaping development trajectories that are adaptive, just, and responsive. It is an imperative calling on Africa and its allies to be committed to the bold, structural transformation that gets the continent onto a trajectory of sustainability of securing dignity, resilience, and prosperity for future generations.

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Author

Dr. Saheed A. Lawal, Department of Public Health, Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Nigeria

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