




World Physiotherapy

AFRICA

**ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
CENSUS**

2022

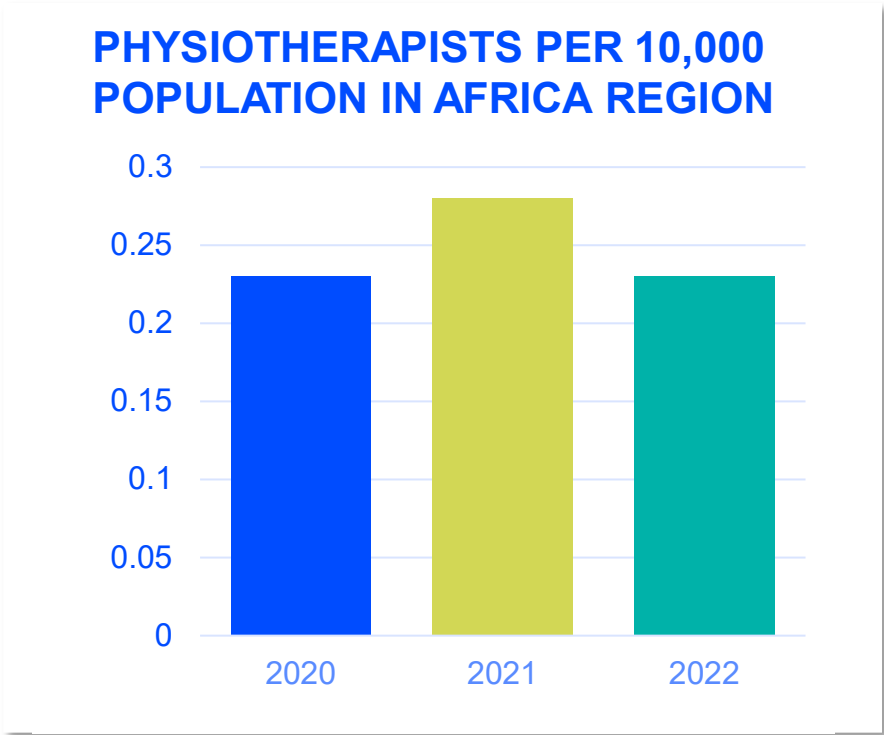


61%

of AMC respondents have **increased** their membership during the last year.


The **Africa region** continues to have the **lowest ratio** of physiotherapy **workforce per population**.





0.23

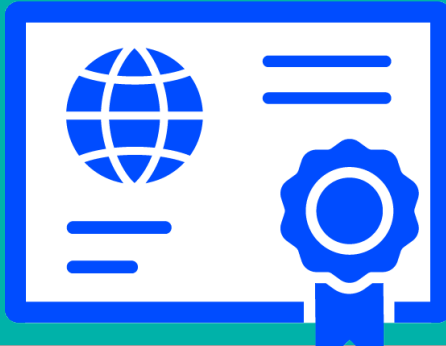
is the average number of **practising physiotherapists** per 10,000 population in the **Africa region** in 2022.

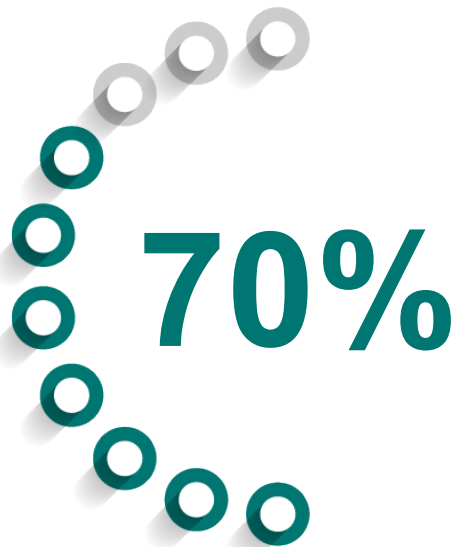


This is a decrease from the previous year (2021: 0.28 physiotherapists/10K population), and a return to the ratio in 2020.

0.47

is the average number of **entry level education programmes per 5 million population** in the region. This is the lowest ratio globally.





of individual members in
member organisations
in the
Africa region
are female



of the physiotherapy
workforce in the
Africa region
are female

BOARD MEMBERS



41%

of member organisations' **board members**
are female (this is the second lowest
percentage across all regions)

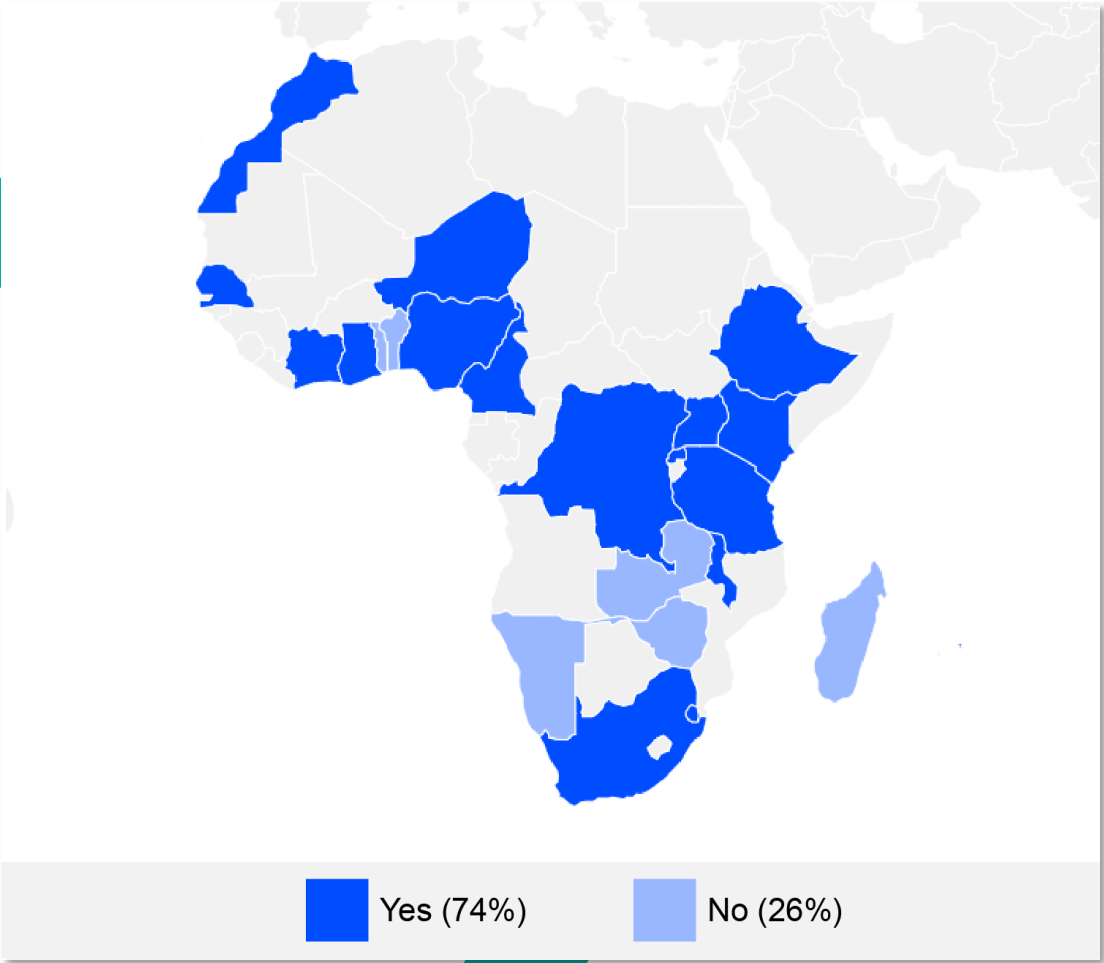


28%

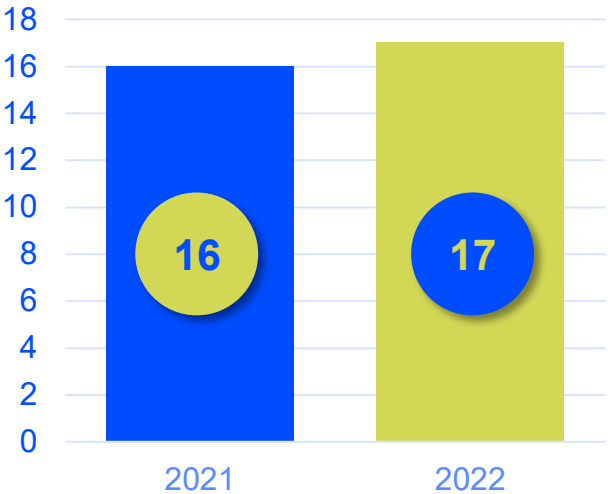
of the 25 member organisations in the
region have **female presidents**

Of 23 AMC respondents in the region, **four have a higher percentage of female board members** than the percentage of female physiotherapists in the workforce in their country/territory

COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES IN THE REGION
WHERE PHYSIOTHERAPISTS ARE ALLOWED
TO PROVIDE TELEHEALTH SERVICES



NUMBER OF
COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES



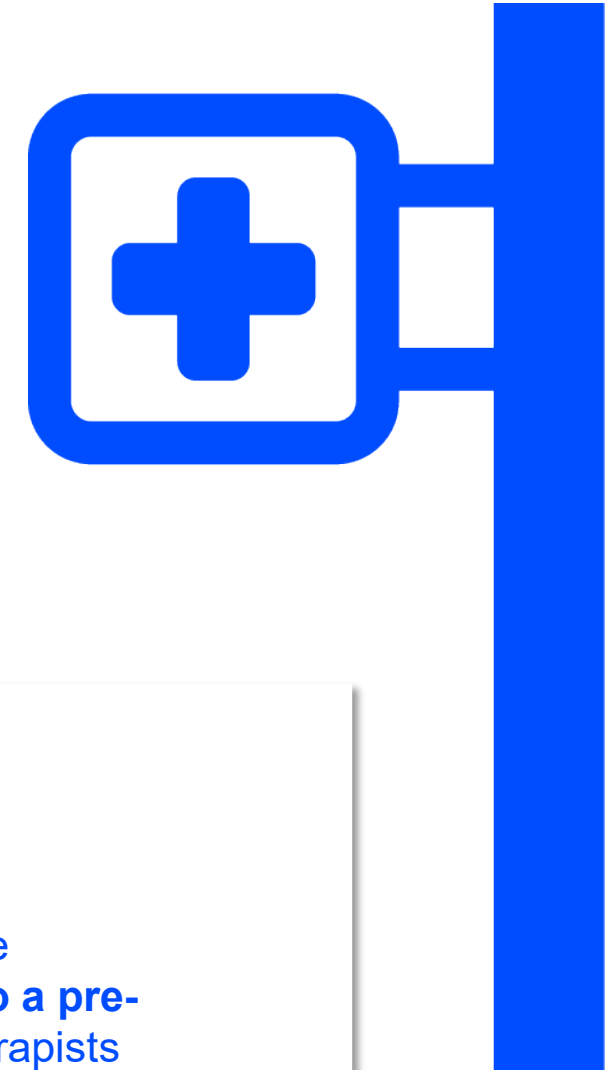
74%
of countries/territories in the
region allow
**physiotherapists to
provide telehealth services**

4%
increase since 2021 in
number of countries/
territories in the region where
**physiotherapists can
provide telehealth services**

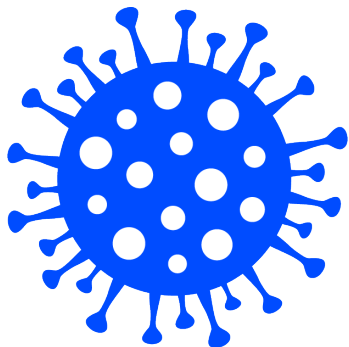


26%

of AMC respondents reported that **physiotherapy is included** in health **emergency preparedness** measures in their country/territory



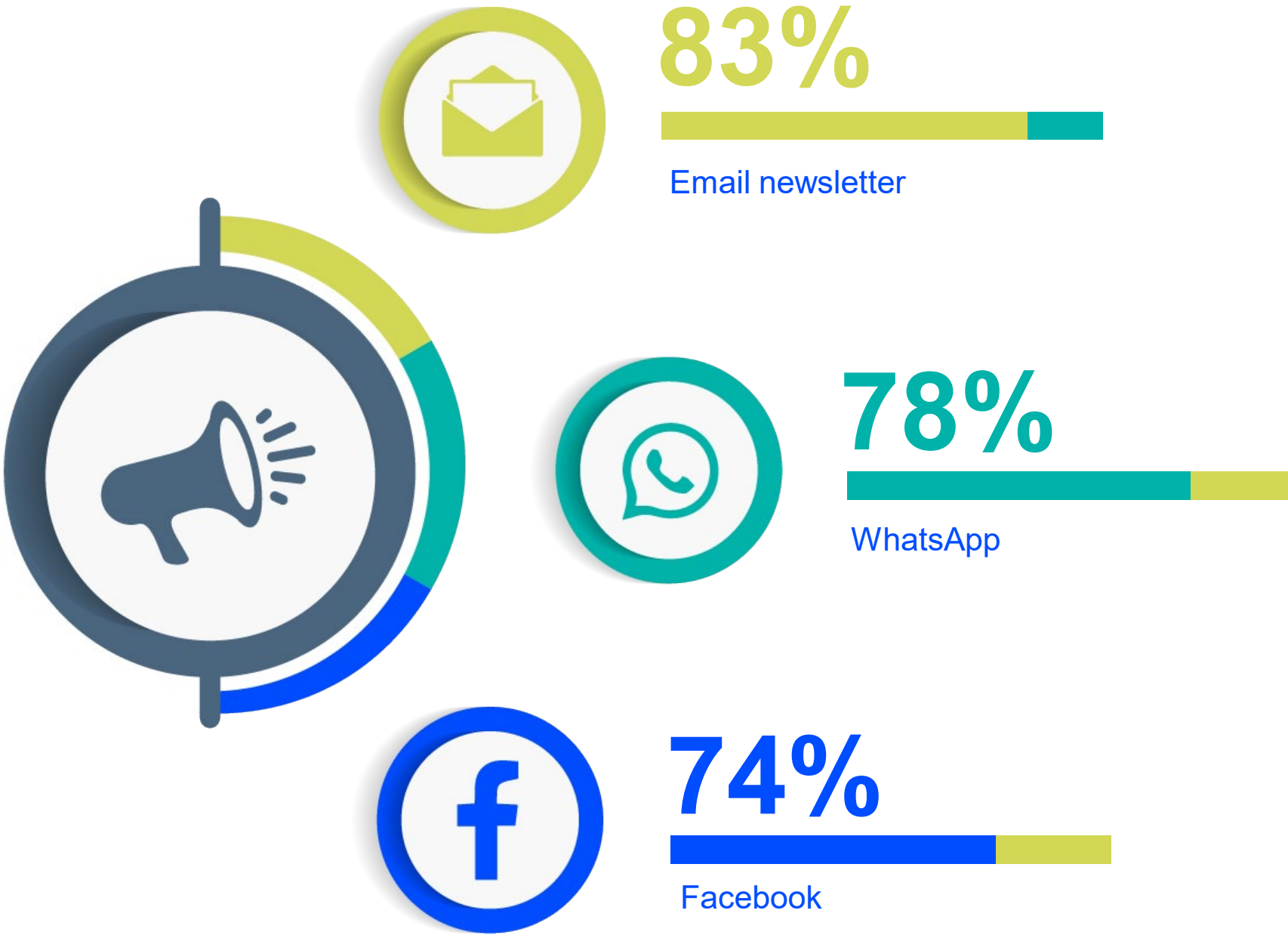
IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



83%

of AMC respondents in the region reported the capacity to provide **physiotherapy services** in their country/territory had **returned to a pre-pandemic level** or increased, regarding the number of physiotherapists working full-time and with access to necessary materials and resources

THE THREE KEY
CHANNELS OF
COMMUNICATION
USED BY AMC
RESPONDENTS
TO COMMUNICATE
WITH THEIR
MEMBERS



COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES IN THE AFRICA REGION



52% of countries/territories have **full direct access**. This is the highest rate of all five regions.

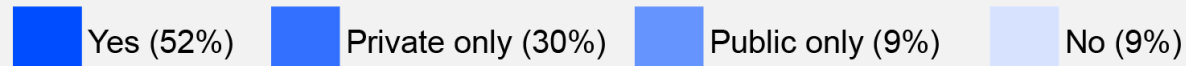
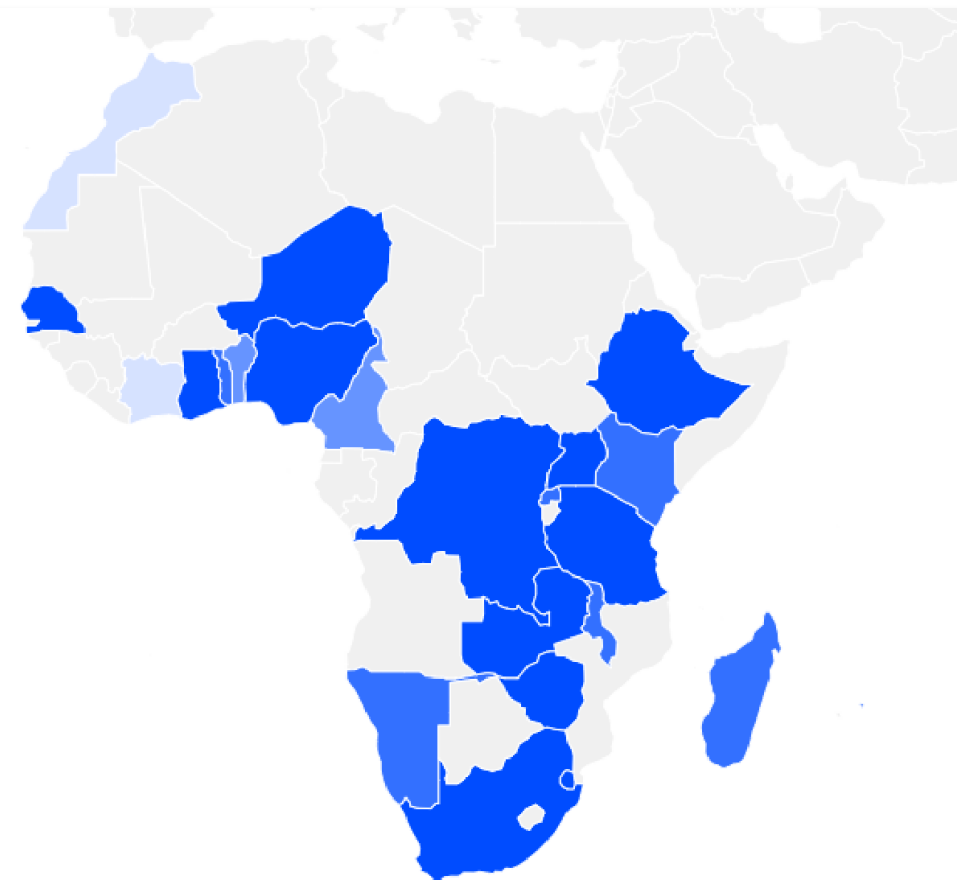


30% reported direct access is only allowed for **private physiotherapy** services.



9% reported direct access is **not allowed**.

The most frequently reported **limitation to direct access** was **practice setting** (30%).



NIGERIA – DIRECT ACCESS

The Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy (NSP) continues to advocate for direct access across all tiers of health service delivery. Direct access has been permitted in the private and public sectors since 2020 due to the ongoing work of the NSP, in collaboration with the medical rehabilitation therapists board of Nigeria (MRTBN), the regulatory body in Nigeria. Their advocacy work has included:

- work towards upgrading the physiotherapy entry level curriculum from a bachelor of physiotherapy to a doctor of physiotherapy
- establishing a national physiotherapy postgraduate college – two sets of students have already graduated from this programme
- providing continued professional development training for NSP members to improve their skills in direct access clinical services
- engaging with the Nigeria Medical Association and other relevant government agencies to advocate for the role and importance of physiotherapy direct access healthcare services
- proposing a parliamentary physiotherapy act to provide direct access to physiotherapist services at all levels of healthcare
- reviewing and developing a national rehabilitation policy and strategic implementation plan to clearly define how people will access physiotherapy and rehabilitation services via direct access.



Africa region	
Benin	Zambia
Cameroon	Zimbabwe
Congo (Democratic Republic)	
Eswatini	
Ethiopia	
Ghana	
Ivory Coast	
Kenya	
Madagascar	
Malawi	
Mauritius	
Morocco	
Namibia	
Niger	
Nigeria	
Rwanda	
Senegal	
South Africa	
Tanzania	
Togo	
Uganda	

92%
of member organisations
(23 out of 25) in the
region submitted data
for the annual
membership census
(AMC) in 2022.

DISCLAIMER

- The data in this report is based on responses to the annual membership census (AMC) sent to World Physiotherapy’s member organisations.
- The AMC was sent to 125 member organisations, of which 116 responded, representing a 92.8% response rate. This is consistent with previous years’ response rates and demonstrates strong engagement between World Physiotherapy and its member organisations. The census date was 30 June 2022.
- Some data in this report has been collated from other sources available to World Physiotherapy.
- If you have any questions or concerns, or want to make changes to your country’s data, please contact membershipcensus@world.physio.