AFRICA | MEMBERSHIP AND PHYSIOTHERAPY WORKFORCE

52% of AMC respondents in the Africa region have increased their membership during the last year.

36% of physiotherapists in the Africa region are members of their member organisation.

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS PER 10,000 POPULATION IN THE REGION

- 2021: 0.3
- 2022: 0.25
- 2023: 0.2

0.27 is the average number of practising physiotherapists per 10,000 population in the Africa region in 2023. This is the lowest ratio across all five regions.
Of the 23 AMC respondents in the region, 26% reported a similar percentage of female board members to the percentage of female physiotherapists in the workforce in their country/territory.

- 39% of member organisations’ board members in the region are female.
- 26% of the 27 member organisations in the region have female presidents.

70% of individual members in member organisations in the Africa region are female.

62% of the physiotherapy workforce in the Africa region is female.
**AFRICA PERMITTED PRACTICE**

- **Act as first contact/ autonomous practitioners**
  - Africa: 83%
  - Global: 69%

- **Able to assess patients/clients**
  - Africa: 100%
  - Global: 97%

- **Can make a diagnosis**
  - Africa: 96%
  - Global: 74%

- **Can refer to other specialists/services**
  - Africa: 100%
  - Global: 76%

- **Can offer preventative advice/services**
  - Africa: 100%
  - Global: 98%

- **Can provide telehealth services**
  - Africa: 70%
  - Global: 83%
AFRICA | DIRECT ACCESS

COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WITH DIRECT ACCESS

59% of countries/territories in the Africa region have **full direct access** to physiotherapy services. This is the lowest level across all five regions.

27% of the AMC respondents in the Africa region reported direct access only for **private physiotherapy** services.

9% reported direct access is **not allowed** in the Africa region.

The most frequently reported **limitation to direct access** was practice setting (35%).
78% of countries/territories in the Africa region said they had one or more of these mitigation strategies to overcome physiotherapy service disruptions.

- **Expansion of hours**
  - Africa: 17%
  - Global: 20%

- **Provision of home-based care**
  - Africa: 70%
  - Global: 45%

- **Telerehabilitation services**
  - Africa: 30%
  - Global: 55%

- **Use of self-care interventions**
  - Africa: 35%
  - Global: 34%

- **Redistribution of physiotherapy roles**
  - Africa: 26%
  - Global: 29%

- **Rapid training mechanisms and job aids**
  - Africa: 22%
  - Global: 16%
The top five channels of communication used by AMC respondents in the Africa region to communicate with their members.

- WhatsApp: 87%
- Email newsletter: 78%
- Facebook: 78%
- Print communication: 57%
- Website: 48%
The Association of Physiotherapists of Madagascar/Association des Kinésithérapeutes de Madagascar successfully advocated to change the minimum qualification required to become a physiotherapist, from a diploma to a bachelor’s degree. The association worked with the ministry of public health and the education authorities to achieve this change in the requirement to practice as a physiotherapist in Madagascar. The campaign also resulted in the creation of a postgraduate master’s qualification in research.
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 127 member organisations, of which 119 responded, representing a 93.7% 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 2023.

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 the data for your country/territory, please contact membershipcensus@world.physio.