

**World
Physiotherapy**

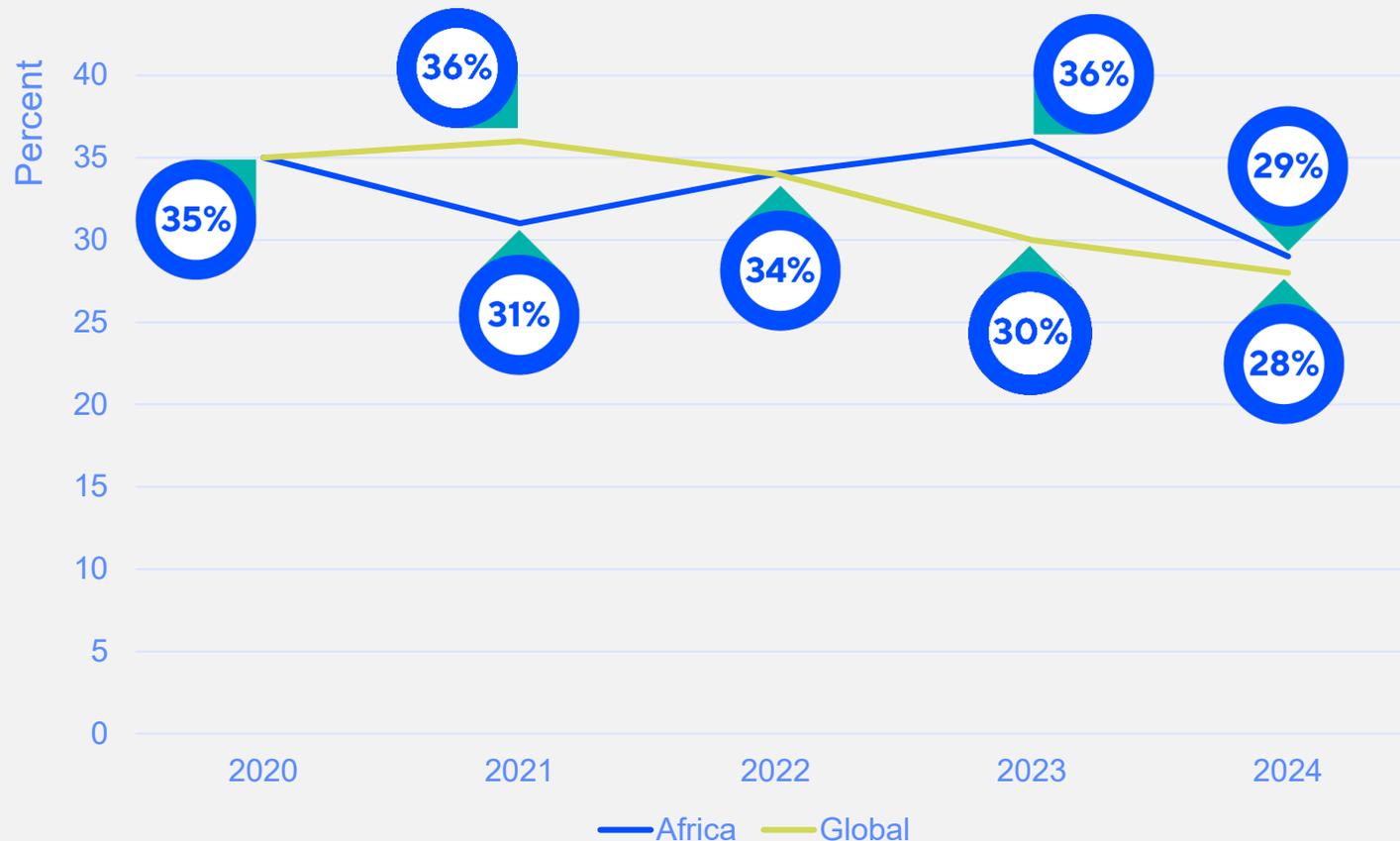
Africa region

2024

**ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
CENSUS**

MEMBERSHIP AND PHYSIOTHERAPY WORKFORCE IN AFRICA

Percentage of physiotherapists who are members of a World Physiotherapy member organisation in the Africa region compared with total physiotherapy workforce



Since 2020, the percentage of physiotherapists who are members of a World Physiotherapy member organisation in the **Africa region** compared with the total workforce has **decreased** by

6%

This decrease is because the total number of physiotherapists in the region has increased at a faster rate than those represented by World Physiotherapy member organisations.

MEMBERSHIP AND PHYSIOTHERAPY WORKFORCE IN AFRICA



73%

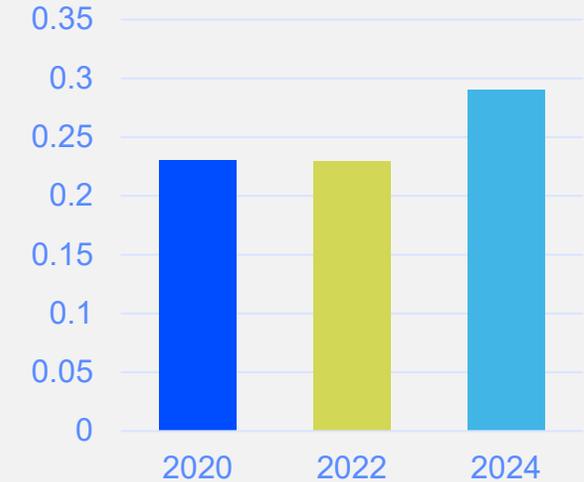
of AMC respondents in the Africa region increased their membership in 2024



29%

of physiotherapists in the Africa region are members of their member organisation

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS PER 10,000 POPULATION IN THE REGION

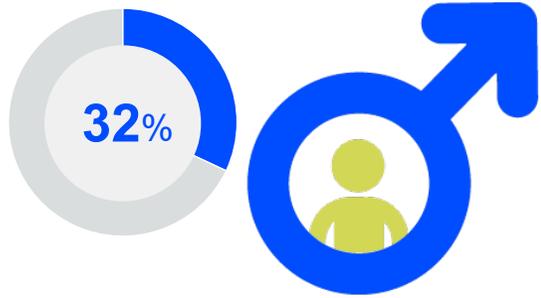


0.29

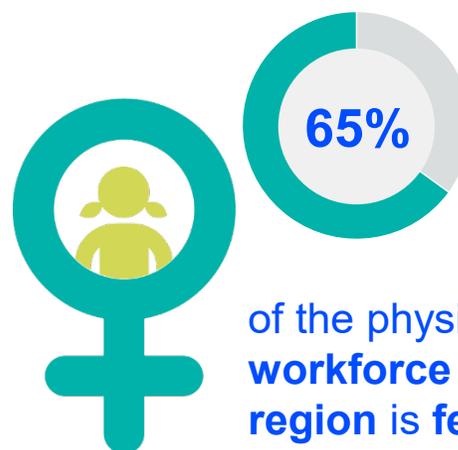
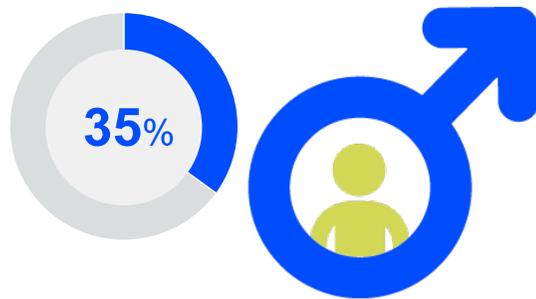
is the average number of practising physiotherapists per 10,000 population in the Africa region in 2024.

This is the lowest ratio across all five regions.

GENDER AND LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA



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



of the physiotherapy **workforce** in the **Africa region** is **female**

BOARD MEMBERS



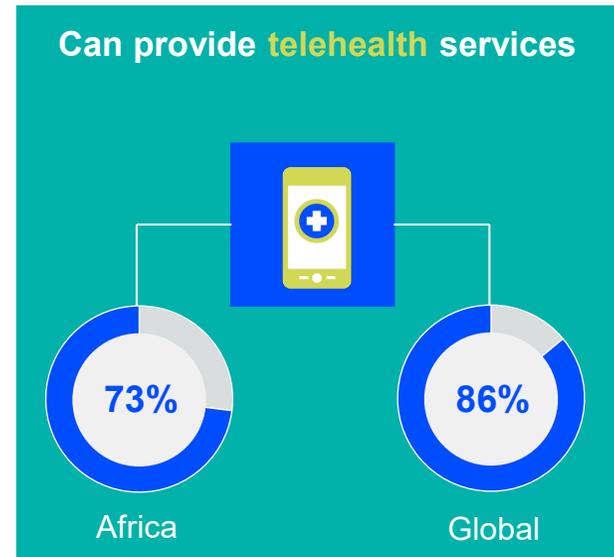
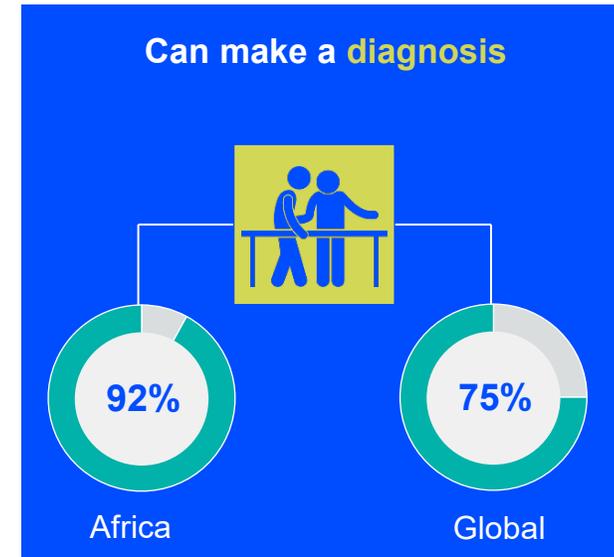
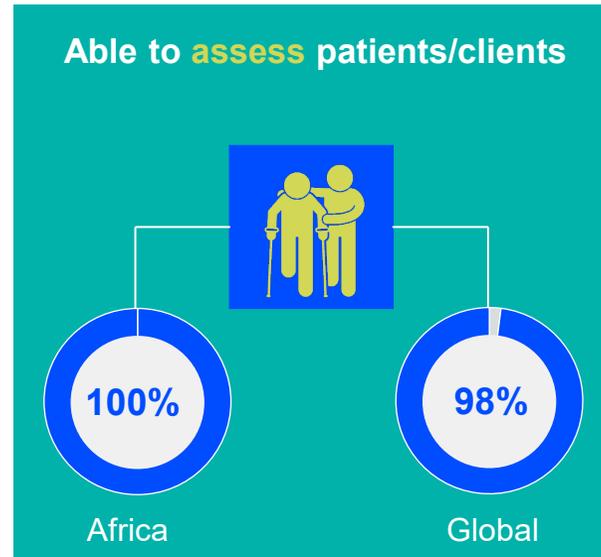
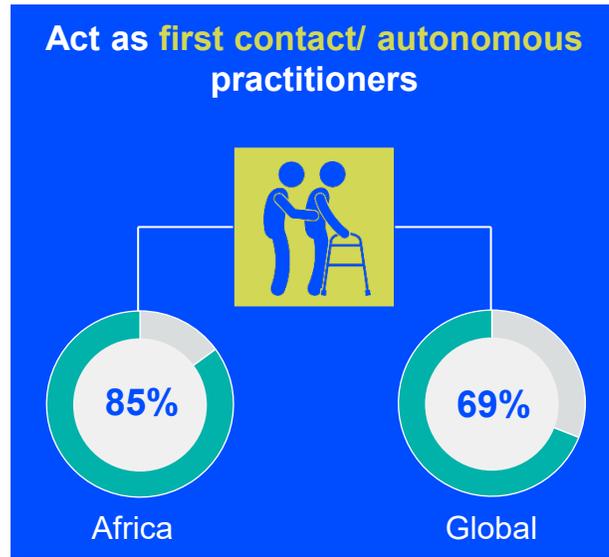
46% of member organisations' **board members** in the region are **female**



22% of the 27 member organisations in the region have **female presidents**

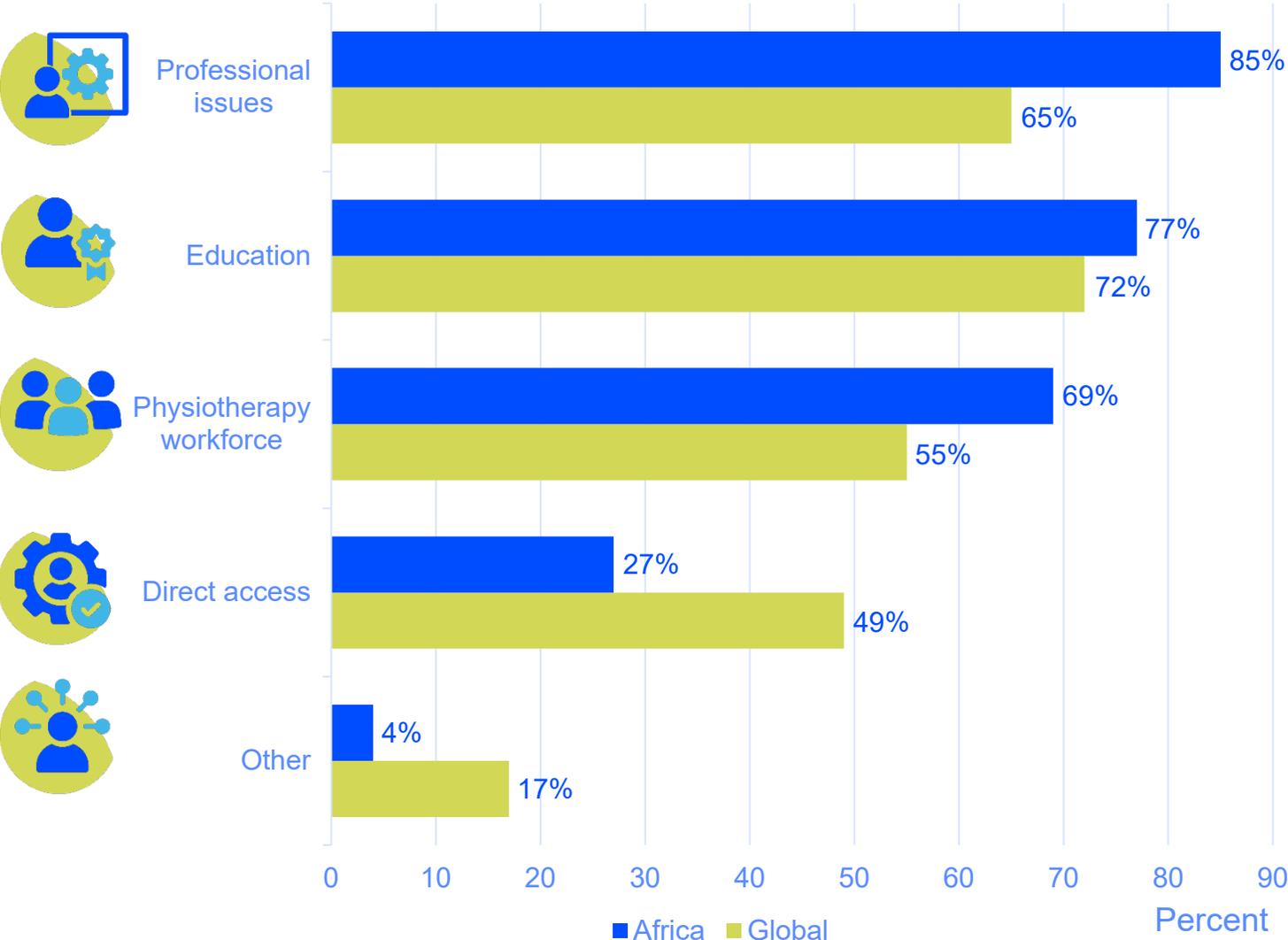
Of the 26 AMC respondents in the region, **39% reported a similar percentage of female board members** to the percentage of female physiotherapists in the workforce in their country/territory

PERMITTED PRACTICE IN AFRICA



ADVOCACY PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

Advocacy priorities* for the Africa region compared with global priorities



85%

of member organisations in the Africa region stated that **professional issues** was an **advocacy priority** in 2024



* Member organisations were able to select more than one advocacy priority

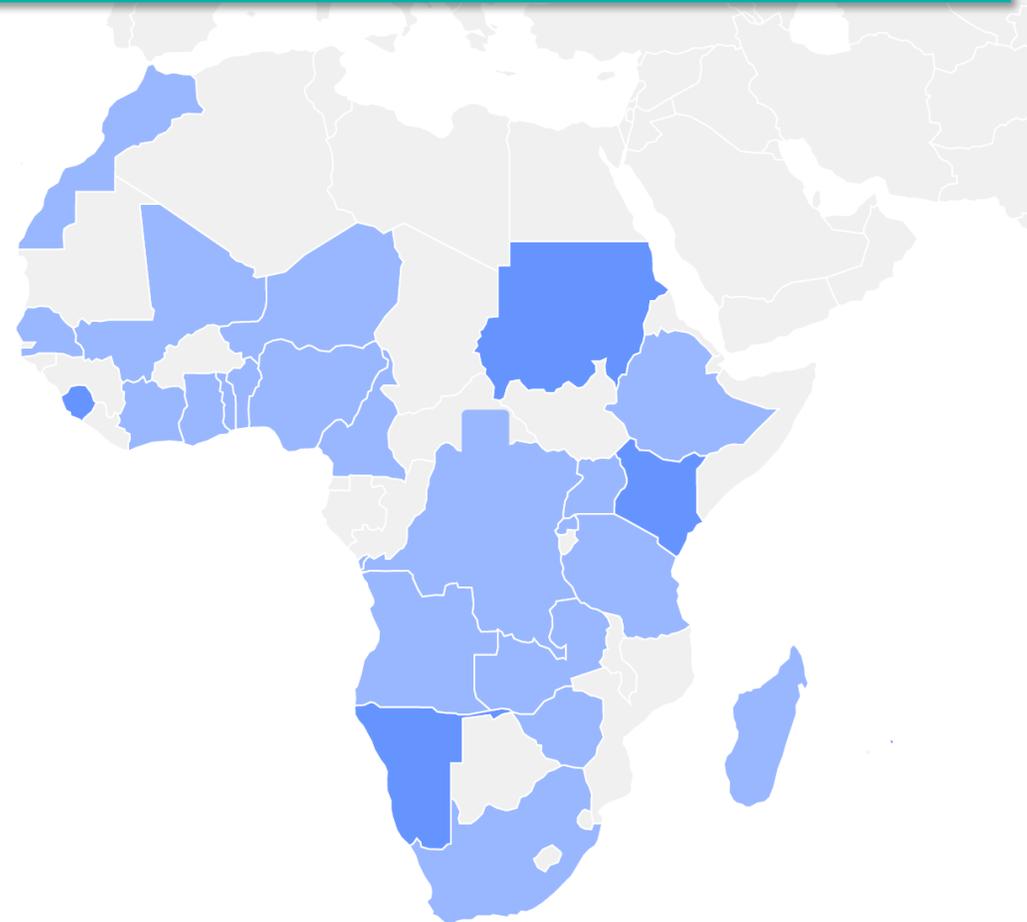
ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA

0.56

is the **average** number of entry level education programmes per 5 million population in the **Africa region** in 2024



NUMBER OF ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES PER 5,000,000 POPULATION

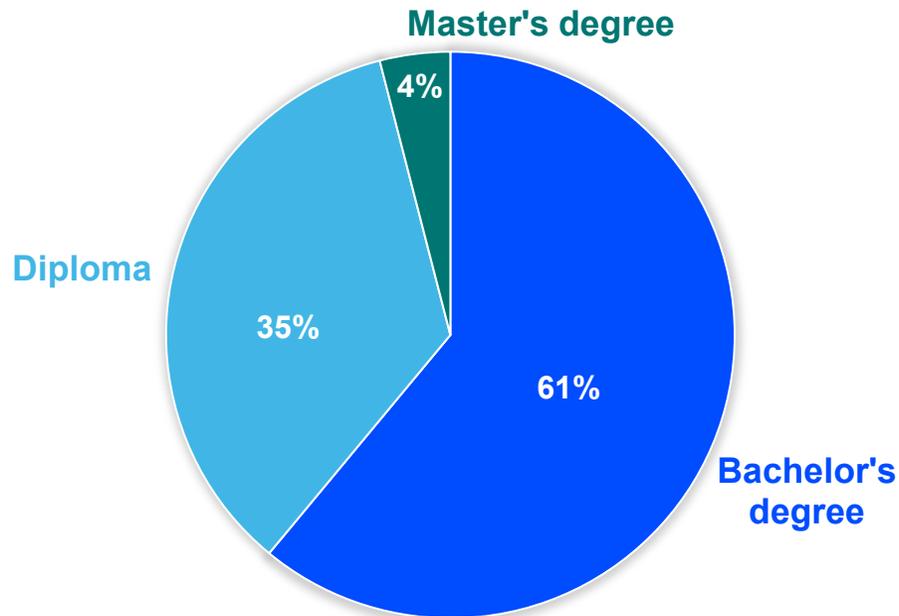


<1 (80%)

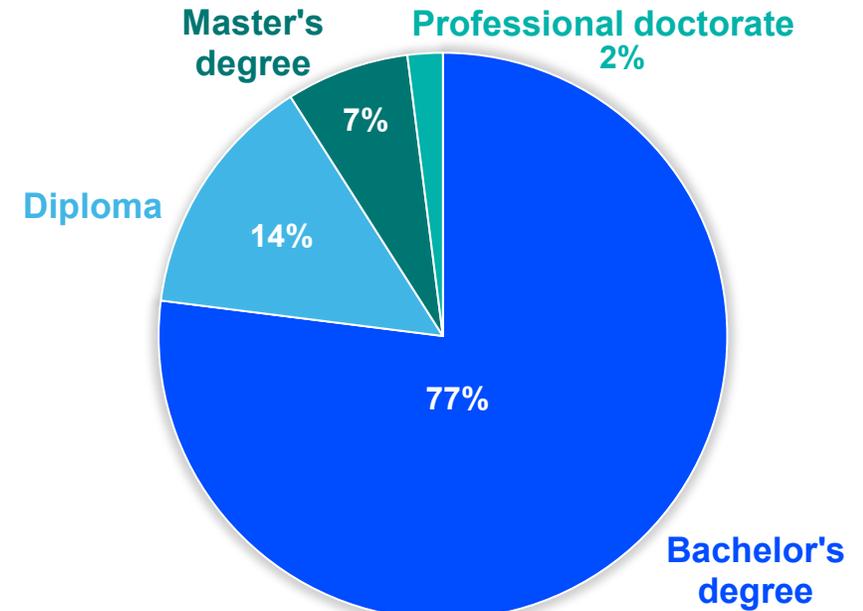
1-5 (20%)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO PRACTICE IN AFRICA

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO PRACTICE IN AFRICA



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO PRACTICE GLOBALLY



Bachelor's degree

is the minimum qualification most commonly required to practice in countries/territories in the Africa region

MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED LIMITATIONS TO DIRECT ACCESS IN AFRICA



48%

Setting (eg outpatient, private practice, school setting, prevention and wellness, etc)



30%

Population/health condition (eg musculoskeletal, non-complex, etc)



17%

Time (eg medical referral required if treatment is needed beyond 30 or 60 days)



35%

Training (eg certification, academic training, or CPD to demonstrate skill necessary to treat patients without referral from a medical doctor)



26%

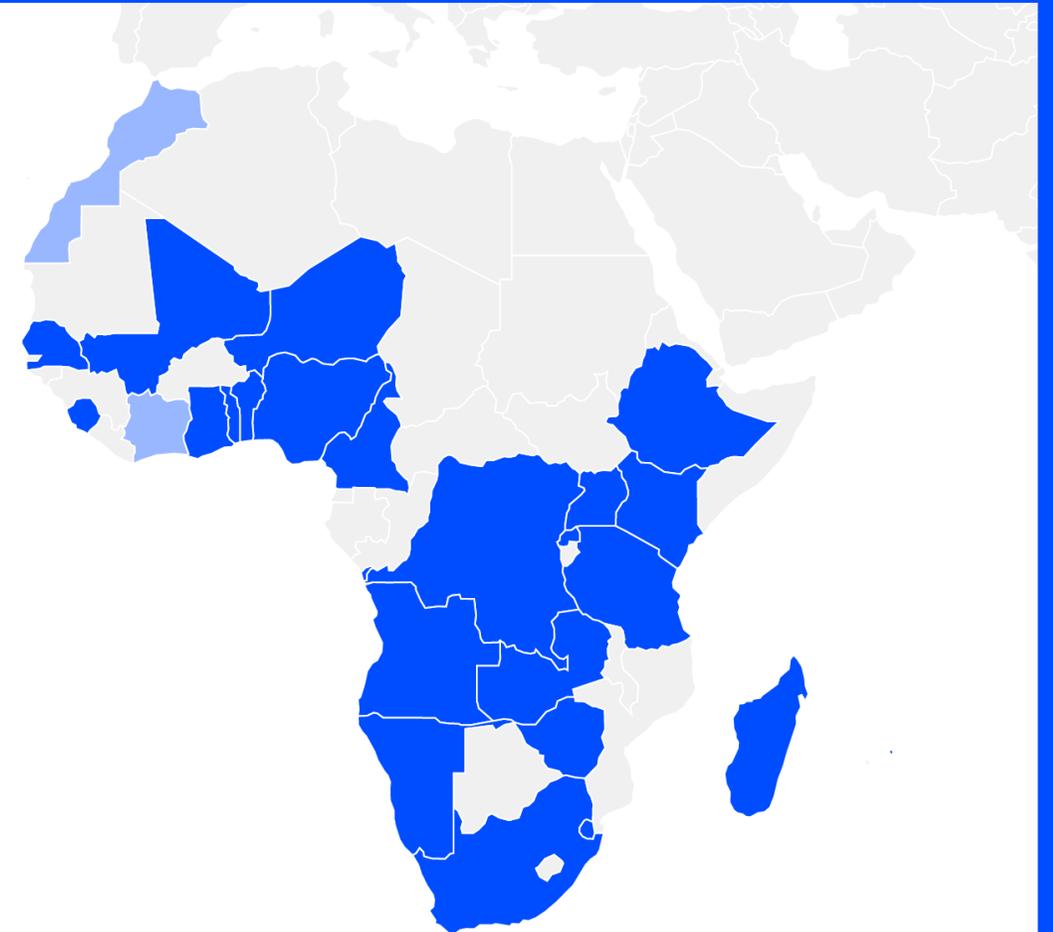
Payment (eg certain payers will not pay for services delivered via direct access)



52%

Other

DIRECT ACCESS IN AFRICA



Yes (92%) No (8%)

CASE STUDY ETHIOPIA: GOVERNMENTAL INFLUENCE TO INCREASE REHABILITATION SERVICES

The **Ethiopian Physiotherapists' Association (EPTA)** has worked with the government to increase awareness of the role of physiotherapy to develop rehabilitation services in Ethiopia in 2024. The EPTA executive committee and its members have been actively involved in:

- **Volunteer physiotherapy services:** during the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia, EPTA mobilised its members to provide volunteer physiotherapy services to people in the affected areas.
- **Engagement in the Rehab 2030 Initiative:** EPTA played a key role in adapting the WHO rehabilitation documents to the national context, including curriculum and document preparation, and other related tasks.
- **Networking events:** EPTA organised networking events, bringing together healthcare professionals, including orthopaedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, internists, general surgeons, and radiologists. These events facilitated panel discussions about the role of physiotherapy rehabilitation and encouraged collaborative approaches.

These actions helped the government and other healthcare professionals better understand the critical contribution of physiotherapists in the healthcare system, increased awareness of the pivotal role of physiotherapy in rehabilitation, and the role of EPTA as a key stakeholder in the preparation of rehabilitation-related documents.



ENGAGEMENT IN AFRICA

Africa region respondents

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

96%

of member organisations (26 out of 27) in the Africa region submitted data for the annual membership census in 2024

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 120 responded, representing a 96% 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 2024.
- 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.