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Addressing Data Deficiency in CAADP's Poverty Reduction Commitment

By John Ulimwengu and Wondwosen Tefera

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Editorial

Since its adoption by the African Union (AU) in 2003, the [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme](#) (CAADP) has been Africa's primary policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security, economic growth, and prosperity. It guides the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Member States in driving agricultural transformation toward a self-reliant and productive Africa.

The recently adopted [Kampala CAADP Declaration](#) on ***“Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa”*** and the associated [CAADP Strategy and Action Plan \(2026-2035\)](#) will build on the success and deepen the progress achieved after two decades of CAADP implementation, during which Africa significantly improved in economic and agricultural growth, poverty reduction, nutrition outcomes, and agricultural trade expansion. The next 10-year cycle of CAADP implementation must further deepen its focus to incorporate lessons while responding to emerging issues to accelerate sustainable food system transformation within a context of climate change and multifaceted stressors and shocks.

The longevity and continued success of CAADP can be attributed to its credibility as a shared framework designed to guide Member States toward agricultural transformation and economic growth. Driven by the CAADP principles and values, with emphasis on African ownership and mutual accountability, alongside review and benchmarking, data and analytics have been central to CAADP's evidence-based planning and implementation approach. As Africa prepares for the implementation phase of the Kampala CAADP Declaration, which comes into force on January 1, 2026, evidence and robust data analysis will continue to remain indispensable to the successful implementation on the ground. This is the rationale behind AKADEMIYA2063's ***Kampala Policy Brief Series***.

The purpose of the policy briefs is to serve as reference documents for policy analysts and planners across AU Member States as they prepare their programs in response to the Kampala CAADP Declaration. The policy briefs will provide a synthesis of a large body of research tackling topics of strategic relevance to Africa's development agenda in parallel with key issues to be addressed during the new phase of CAADP implementation to provide insights, analyze emerging ideas, review crosscutting thematic areas, and propose policy recommendations that can be replicated for sustainable impact.

The evidence presented in the Kampala Policy Brief Series is derived from published research and data by AKADEMIYA2063's scientists and collaborators across Africa and outside the continent. These lessons are made accessible to policymakers, non-state actors, and other practitioners at continental, regional, and national levels, as well as development partners, to support the implementation of CAADP 2026-2035. In addition to packaging the lessons and insights into comprehensive yet accessible knowledge products, AKADEMIYA2063 is facilitating policy dialogue through webinars. During these sessions, the findings are presented to a broad range of stakeholders to guide programmatic interventions supporting the implementation of the Kampala CAADP Agenda.



Abstract

This policy brief examines Africa's data reporting performance on the commitment to halve poverty under the fourth CAADP Biennial Review (BR) of the Malabo Declaration. Data availability is central to tracking progress, yet approximately 40 percent of the required data was missing at the continental level, with significant disparities across regions, indicators, and countries. Central Africa exhibited the highest rate of missing data, while Western Africa reported the lowest and achieved the highest BR scores. The analysis reveals a strong negative correlation between data missing rates and BR performance scores, indicating that improved reporting can enhance the visibility of positive policy outcomes. However, high-quality data alone is not sufficient—outcomes also depend on effective policy design and implementation.

The review process uncovered persistent data quality challenges, particularly the presence of extreme outlier values that undermine the reliability and comparability of reported results. These anomalies—such as implausible agricultural growth rates or disproportionate reductions in poverty—highlight weaknesses in data validation and signal a need for strengthened national data governance. The brief recommends institutionalizing the BR process, creating Kampala commitment-specific data clusters, and investing in capacity building to improve data consistency and utilization. Strengthening national data systems is essential to achieving the poverty reduction goals of the Kampala Declaration.



Introduction

In January 2025, the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government adopted the Kampala CAADP Declaration. The Declaration provides the direction for building resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in Africa over the next ten years. To transform and strengthen the continent's agrifood system, six commitments are identified in the Declaration (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2025). Halving extreme poverty is one of the goals put forward in the declaration under the commitment to advancing inclusivity and equitable livelihoods (Commitment area 4). Poverty reduction contributes to agrifood system transformation through its role in empowering vulnerable populations, improving livelihoods, and enhancing nutrition outcomes, among others.

To monitor the progress of African countries in halving poverty under the Kampala Declaration, the availability and quality of relevant data will be crucial. Reliable data is essential not only for assessing country performance but also for recommending actions that can enhance progress and keep nations on track to meet the 2035 targets. In short, access to high-quality, timely data will play a pivotal role in enabling

evidence-based analysis and informed decision-making in the fight against poverty.

A useful precedent for such data-driven monitoring can be found in the Malabo Declaration, adopted in 2014, which outlines seven commitments aimed at achieving Africa's agricultural vision for the 2015–2025 period. The fourth commitment specifically targets halving poverty by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation (AUC 2014). To track progress, the Malabo Declaration includes a set of indicators and data parameters that measure performance in poverty reduction efforts. Since 2017, African countries have monitored and reported this progress through four rounds of the BR Reports, released alongside the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard.

This issue of the **Kampala Policy Brief Series** examines the data reporting performance of Africa with respect to the commitment of halving poverty based on the fourth BR report of the Malabo Declaration. The purpose of this policy brief is to assess the quality and completeness of data reported by African countries in the fourth BR cycle of the Malabo Declaration, with

a particular focus on the commitment to halve poverty through agricultural transformation. By analyzing patterns of data availability, performance scores, and anomalies such as outliers, the brief aims to highlight both the opportunities and the challenges inherent in the current monitoring framework and lessons to be learned for the implementation of the Kampala Declaration. Its relevance lies in providing actionable insights for policymakers, data custodians, and development partners to strengthen data systems, enhance accountability, and better align national reporting processes with the broader continental goals. The analysis puts forward recommendations intended in part to improve data reporting during the Kampala Declaration.

1. Indicators and Data Parameters Required

The commitment on reducing poverty by half is one of the seven commitments under the Malabo Declaration. It consists of eight indicators, and reporting on each indicator requires several data parameters. Indicator 4.1ii was muted¹ during the four rounds of the Malabo BR reporting. During the fourth Malabo BR cycle, countries were required to provide data for eight years, from 2015 to 2022, for the parameters available in each of the seven indicators. Table 2.1 presents the specific indicators and the number of data parameters required for comprehensive reporting on the commitment to reduce poverty by half during the fourth Malabo BR reporting cycle. According to the table, a total of 480 data points were required for the seven indicators, spanning eight years from 2015 to 2022. This places Commitment 4 as the second highest in terms of the number of required data points, following Commitment 3, which focuses on ending hunger. Furthermore, Table 1.1 illustrates that indicators 4.1v and 4.2 require the highest number of data points. This is because, for each indicator, data is needed for four parameters across five priority crops from 2015 to 2022.

Table 1.1: Indicators and data points required (Commitment 4, fourth BR).

No.	Indicator	Number of Required Data
4.1i	Growth rate of the agriculture value added, in constant US dollars	48
4.1ii	Agriculture's contribution to the overall poverty reduction target (Standby)	-
4.1iii	Reduction rate of the poverty headcount ratio, at national poverty line	16
4.1iv	Reduction rate of the poverty headcount ratio, at international poverty line	16
4.1v	Reduction rate of the gap between the wholesale price and farmgate price	160
4.2	Agricultural commodity value chains for which a PPP is established with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture	160
4.3	Youth engaged in new job opportunities in agriculture value chains	32
4.4	Proportion of rural women empowered in agriculture	48

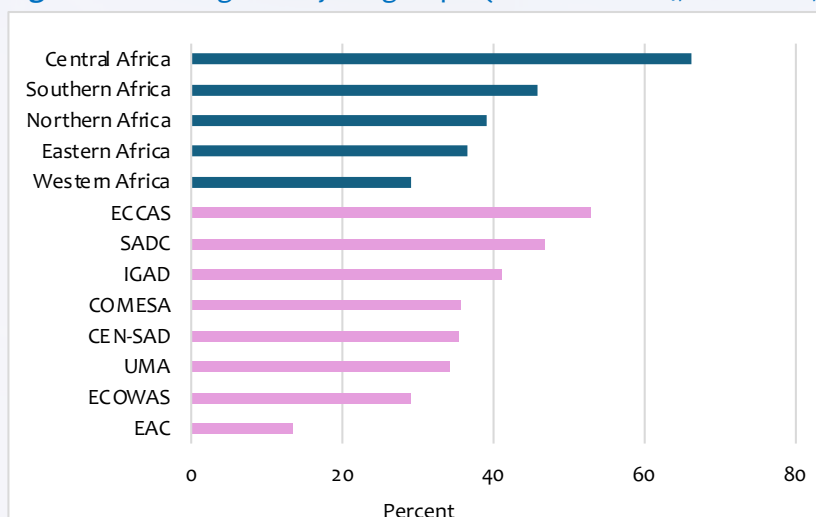
Source: Authors' representation, based on data from the fourth BR.

2. Data Reporting Performance

As with previous review cycles, the fourth CAADP BR report underscores that persistent challenges in data reporting continue to hinder the effectiveness of the BR process, making the acquisition of high-quality, timely data a top priority (AUC 2024). At the continental level, roughly 40 percent of the necessary data points to fully report on the commitment to halving poverty were not submitted. The geographic distribution reveals that the highest rate of missing data is found in Central Africa (66.2 percent), while the lowest was in Western Africa (29 percent). Similarly, ECCAS experienced the highest percentage of missing data among the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) at 53 percent, whereas EAC had the lowest rate at 13.4 percent (Figure 3.1).

¹ This was included as the results of a thorough analysis on the impact of agricultural growth on poverty reduction over the implementation cycle.

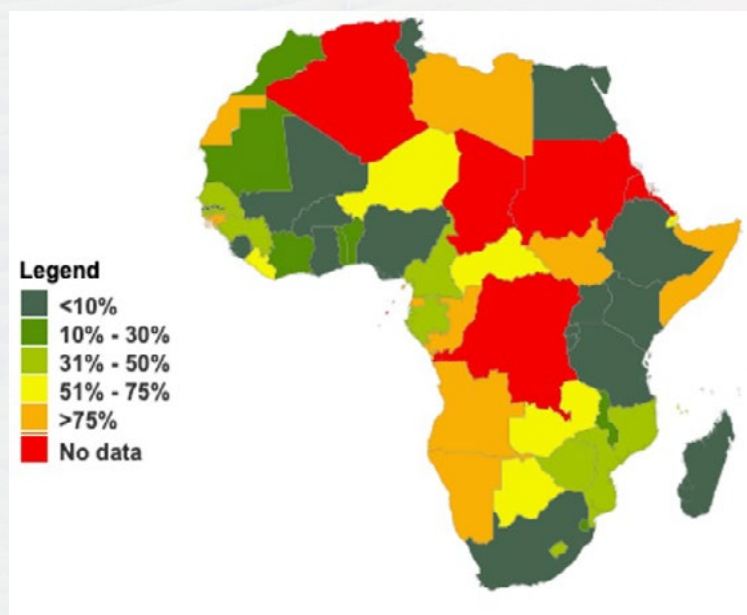
Figure 2.1: Missing data by subgroups² (Commitment 4, fourth BR, 2024).



Source: Authors' representation, based on data from the fourth BR.

Out of the 49 countries that reported for the fourth BR, nine countries submitted data for all the data parameters. The nine countries that met this requirement are Burkina Faso, Egypt, the Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Tunisia³. Additionally, seven other countries recorded a missing rate of less than 10 percent. These countries are Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Uganda, as indicated in Figure 3.2.

Figure 2.2: Missing data rate by countries (Commitment 4, fourth BR).



Source: Authors' representation, based on data from the fourth BR, using the Fast Mapping Tool.

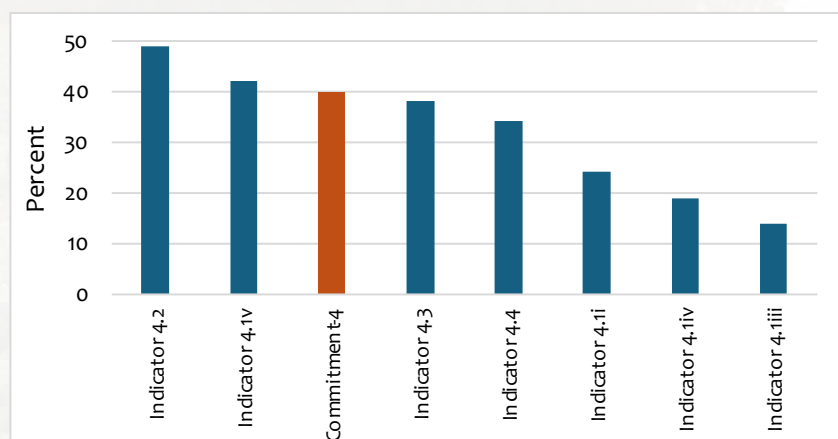
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² ECCAS=Economic Community of Central African States, SADC=Southern African Development Community, IGAD= Intergovernmental Authority on Development, COMESA=Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, CEN-SAD= Community of Sahel-Saharan States, UMA= Arab Maghreb Union, ECOWAS=Economic Community of West African States, EAC=East African Community.

³ It is important to note that the absence of missing data points does not imply that data submitted by these countries are entirely error-free. Although evaluation of data quality is not within the scope of this brief, the issue of outlier is flagged in section 5.

A total of 19 countries (38.8 percent of the 49 reporting countries) could not provide more than 50 percent of the required data parameters for Commitment 4. This includes⁴ Libya, Rep. A. Saharawi, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia, Angola, Guinea Bissau, Namibia, Congo Rep., Seychelles, South Sudan, Mauritius, CAR, Comoros, Zambia, Djibouti, Niger, Cabo Verde, Liberia, and Botswana. The finding also shows that the missing data rate notably differs from one indicator to another. That is, indicator 4.2 had the highest proportion of missing data at 49 percent, followed by indicator 4.1v at 42 percent. This is likely because reporting on these two indicators requires a relatively high number of data points (see Table 2.1). Conversely, indicator 4.iii exhibited the lowest rate of missing data at 14 percent (Figure 2.3). This suggests that the issue of missing data was not uniform across the various indicators and data parameters.

Figure 2.3: Missing data by indicators (Commitment 4, fourth BR).



Source: Authors' representation, based on data from the fourth BR.

⁴ The countries are listed in the order of data missing rate starting from the highest.

The box below presents a country-level summary of missing data for each indicator.

Box 2.1: Missing data by indicator.

- **Indicator 4.1i: Growth rate of the agriculture value added, in constant US dollars:** A total of six countries failed to report any of the data parameters required under this indicator. Additionally, four countries recorded a data missing rate between 50 and 80 percent. Conversely, out of the 49 reporting countries, 21 fully reported on indicator 4.1i, accounting for 43 percent of the total.
- **Indicator 4.1iii: Reduction rate of poverty headcount ratio, at national poverty line:** Indicator 4.1iii has the least missing rate, with only 15 out of the 49 reporting countries experiencing data missing issues to varying degrees. Among these, three countries failed to report any data parameters, while the remaining 12 countries had data missing rates between 6 percent and 56 percent. A total of 34 countries, representing 69 percent of the reporting countries, fully reported on indicator 4.1iii.
- **Indicator 4.1iv: Reduction rate of poverty headcount ratio, at international poverty line:** Of the reporting countries, 18, or 37 percent, had data missing issues to varying degrees. Notably, three of these countries failed to report on any data parameters under indicator 4.1iv. On the other hand, 31 countries, accounting for 63 percent of the 49 reporting countries, fully reported on indicator 4.1iv.
- **Indicator 4.1v: Reduction rate of the gap between the wholesale price and farmgate price:** A total of 29 reporting countries experienced issues with missing data to varying degrees. Out of these countries, approximately 40 percent did not report any of the data parameters, and five countries had a missing data rate of 75 percent or more. The remaining 20 countries, accounting for 41 percent of the reporting countries, fully reported on the indicator.
- **Indicator 4.2: Agricultural commodity value chains for which a PPP is established with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture:** A significant data missing problem was observed in several countries, with 31, or 63 percent, of the reporting countries experiencing data missing to varying degrees. Approximately 35 percent of the reporting countries failed to report on any of the data parameters, while seven countries, constituting 14 percent of the 49 reporting countries, failed to report at least half of the required data parameters under indicator 4.2.
- **Indicator 4.3: Youth engaged in new job opportunities in agriculture value chains:** Out of the 29 reporting countries that encountered data missing issues, half of them failed to report at least 75 percent of the necessary data parameters. Only 20 countries were able to provide complete reports for all the required data parameters.
- **Indicator 4.4: Proportion of rural women who are empowered in agriculture:** A total of 14 countries missed reporting at least 75 percent of the necessary data parameters for this indicator. Additionally, four countries did not submit data for 50 to 74 percent of the required parameters. On the other hand, 25 out of the 49 reporting countries managed to report on all the data parameters.

Source: Authors' representation, based on data from the fourth BR.

Box 2.1 confirms that, for several countries, the problem of missing data persisted in all indicators under Commitment 4. More than two-thirds of the countries that failed to provide data for the different indicators presented in Box 3.1 were the ones implementing the Malabo-compliant second-generation National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs). Table 2.1 presents the list of countries that have a missing rate of 50 percent or more in at least one of the indicators in Commitment 4 and their status in the NAIPs formulation. The value in brackets shows the number of Commitment 4 indicators with at least a 50 percent missing rate.

Table 2.1: NAIP status of countries with at least 50 percent data missing rate.

No NAIP	NAIP-1 only	NAIP-2 only	Both NAIPs	
Angola (6)	CAR (6)	Botswana (5)	Benin (1)	Liberia (3)
Equatorial Guinea (7)	Eswatini (1)	Comoros (3)	Cabo Verde (4)	Mauritania (1)
Lesotho (1)	Seychelles (5)	Gabon (2)	Cameroon (3)	Mozambique (3)
Namibia (4)		Libya (5)	Congo Rep. (3)	Niger (4)
Rep. A. Sahrawi (7)		Mauritius (5)	Côte d'Ivoire (2)	South Sudan (5)
Somalia (7)		Morocco (1)	Djibouti (3)	Senegal (2)
			G. Bissau (5)	Zambia (4)
			Guinea (2)	Zimbabwe (1)

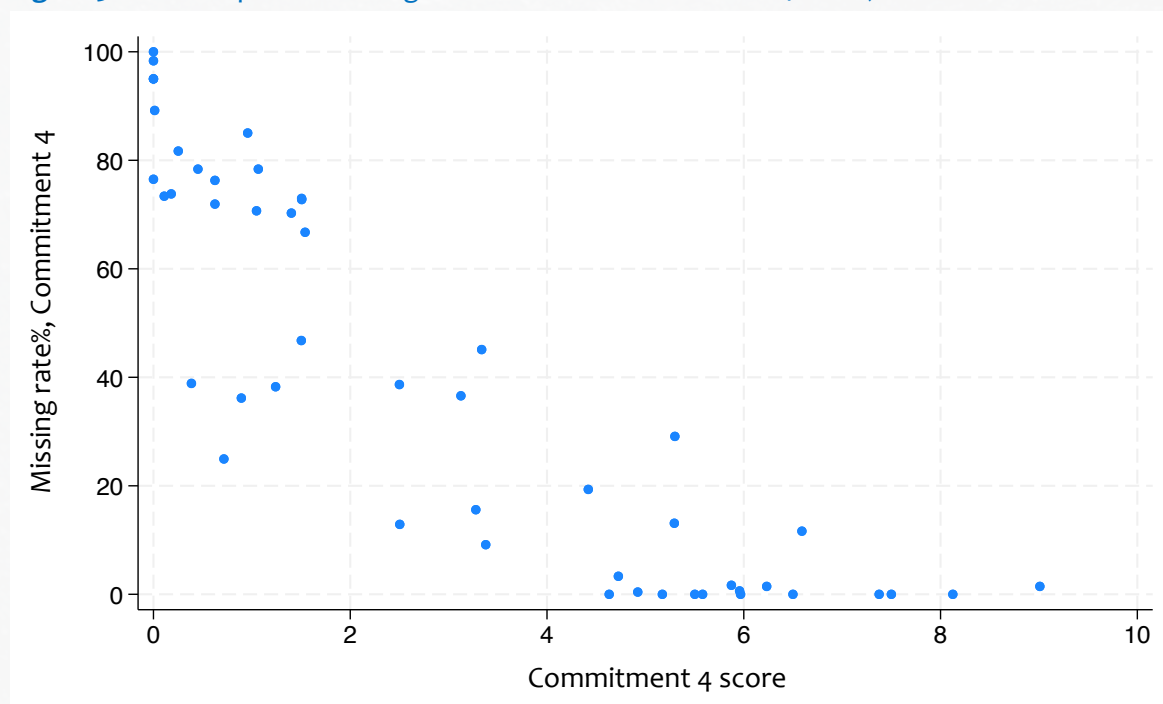
Source: Authors' representation, based on data from the fourth BR.

Table 2.1 shows that many countries with high rates of missing data have still managed to formulate a NAIP, which is a country's strategy document to domesticate the objectives of the Malabo Declaration. However, the success of a NAIP hinges on both a well-crafted plan and its effective implementation. A strong plan, with quality and sound principles, is essential; still, its impact is maximized through efficient execution that requires strong institutional capacity, political commitment, and access to reliable data, among other factors. Quality data is vital for monitoring, evaluation, learning, and evidence-based decision-making throughout the implementation phase.

3. Reporting Rate and Performance

One of the key findings in this brief is that a decrease in data reporting rate is likely to decrease the BR scores. As shown in Figure 3.1, there is a strong negative correlation between the data missing rate and the score for Commitment 4. However, increased reporting alone does not guarantee a better BR score, as scores are primarily driven by the policies adopted and implemented by individual countries. The impact of policies and investment decisions on development outcomes is a crucial factor in determining BR scores (Benin et al. 2020). **Efforts to improve data reporting, however, have the potential to positively impact the BR score by shedding light on sound policies and investment decisions that may have been overlooked due to poor data reporting.** Figure 3.1 suggests that countries with higher data reporting rates for indicators under the poverty reduction commitment are more likely to achieve higher BR scores in that area.

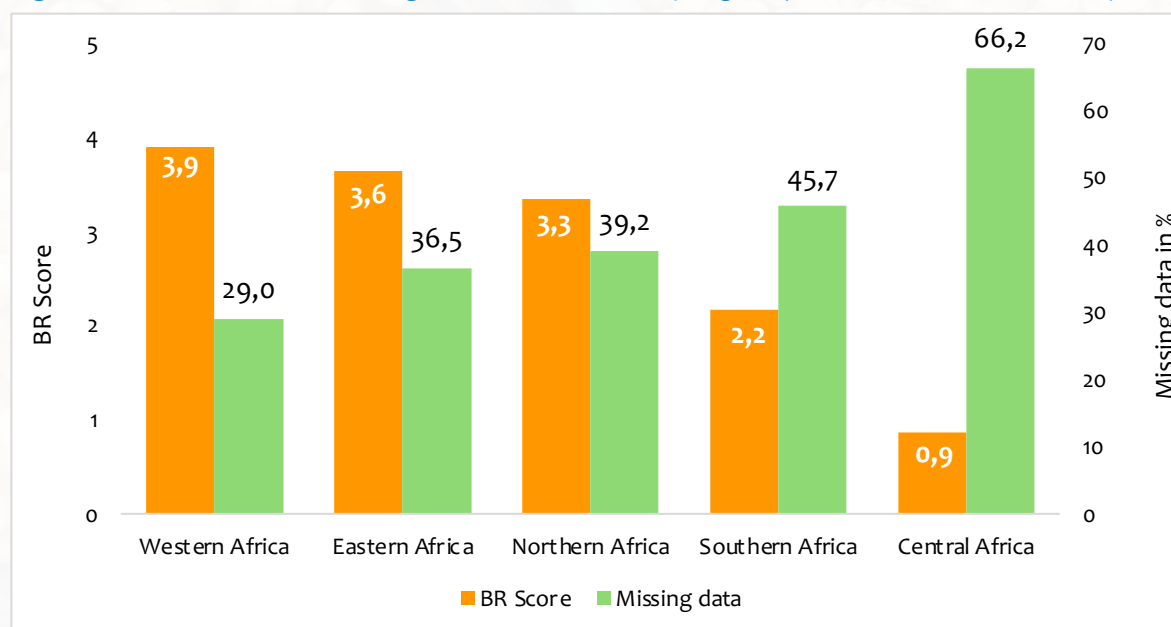
Figure 3.1: Scatter plot of missing data rates and Commitment 4 score, fourth BR.



Source: Authors' representation, based on data from the fourth BR.

Figure 3.2 illustrates the regional distribution of the negative association between data reporting rate and the BR score. The Central Africa region failed to report on two-thirds of the required data parameters and also recorded the lowest BR score, 0.87 out of 10. Conversely, Western Africa, which had the lowest data missing rate at 29 percent, achieved the highest score among all regions, with 3.89 out of 10.

Figure 3.2: Association of missing data and BR score by region (Commitment 4, fourth BR).

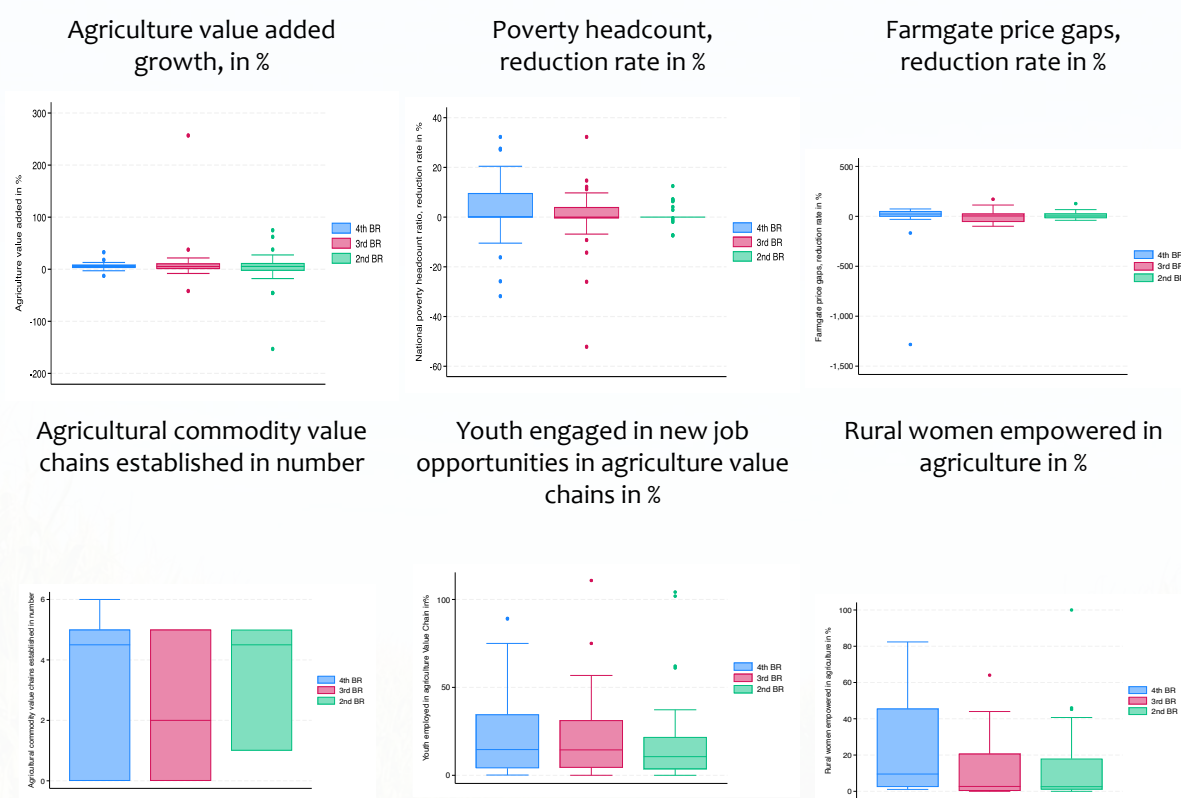


Source: Authors' representation based on data from the fourth BR.

4. Outliers

In addition to the concern over missing data discussed in Section 3, the BR submissions by countries also exhibited significant challenges related to data quality. A major concern here was the prevalence of outliers—extreme values that deviated markedly from the general trends observed across the dataset. Figure 4.1, which presents a boxplot visualization of the indicators under Commitment 4, serves as a diagnostic tool to flag such anomalies. This visual aid not only illustrates the spread and central tendencies of the data but also underscores the persistence of outliers across multiple BR cycles and for each measured indicator, reinforcing concerns about data consistency and reliability.

Figure 4.1: Boxplot results for Commitment 4 indicators.



Source: Authors' representation, based on BR data.

These outliers are not merely statistical noise; they raise questions about the accuracy of data collection, validation mechanisms, and reporting standards across participating countries. For instance, during the fourth BR process, several country-level entries stood out for their implausible or highly irregular values. An annual agricultural value-added growth rate of 32 percent is significantly higher than typical national averages, which usually hover in the low single digits for most countries, suggesting either a data entry error or an unusual economic event that warrants further scrutiny. Similarly, reports of a 31 percent decline and a 32 percent increase in national poverty headcount ratio over a single review period are striking. Such dramatic fluctuations within a short timeframe are rare and could indicate inconsistencies in methodology or data reporting frameworks.

One of the most striking anomalies is the reported -1,283 percent shift in the farmgate price gap for a particular country—a figure that appears to contradict fundamental economic principles. A negative percentage beyond 100 percent suggests a reversal or an error in computation, signaling a possible misunderstanding of indicator definitions or a severe issue in the data pipeline. Furthermore, the claim that 89 percent of youth have been newly engaged in job opportunities within agricultural value chains seems overly optimistic, given the structural employment challenges typically faced by this sector in most countries. While this may reflect targeted efforts or pilot programs, the scale and uniformity implied by such a number necessitate rigorous verification.

Together, these examples highlight a persistent and systemic issue: even when data is available, its quality may be compromised. This undermines the credibility of the review process and potentially distorts policy insights derived from the BR. Without strong protocols for data validation, peer review, and capacity-building in national statistical systems, such outlier issues will continue to obscure the true picture of agricultural transformation efforts across the continent.

In the fourth BR cycle, a notable effort was made through a continental data cleaning and validation process to address data quality issues. Continental data cleaning and validation is led and coordinated by the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD. This process occurs exclusively at the continental level, where BR Taskforce members review each data parameter and provide feedback to countries on data points that appear to be outliers or exhibit significant inconsistencies. Nonetheless, the problem of outliers continued to challenge, as shown in Figure 4.1.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

A key takeaway from the fourth Malabo BR cycle is the persistent challenge of **data unavailability**, which continues to undermine efforts to monitor progress on halving poverty across Africa. Approximately 40 percent of the required data for tracking this commitment was missing at the continental level, with significant disparities observed across indicators, regions, and countries.

Importantly, the analysis establishes a strong inverse relationship between data missing rates and BR performance scores. Countries with more complete datasets tended to achieve higher scores, suggesting that comprehensive reporting not only enhances transparency but also enables recognition of effective policies and investments that might otherwise go unnoticed. However, it is critical to note that data reporting alone is not sufficient—scores ultimately reflect the quality and implementation of national policies and strategies.

In addition, the fourth BR cycle revealed persistent issues of **data quality**, particularly the presence of outliers in country submissions. Several indicators, especially those under Commitment 4, were affected by extreme and implausible values that cast doubt on the reliability of the data.

The fourth BR cycle demonstrates that the ability to generate relevant, timely, and high-quality data is foundational to achieving Africa's poverty reduction goals. Improved data systems enable governments to monitor results, inform decisions, and align actions with development targets such as those outlined in the Kampala Declaration and its vision for halving extreme poverty by 2035.

To strengthen the monitoring and implementation framework, the following actions are recommended:

- **Institutionalize the BR process:** Embed the BR process within national planning and monitoring systems to ensure sustainability and regular engagement.
- **Establish and operationalize BR data clusters:** Create commitment-specific data clusters responsible for organizing, validating, and submitting data. These clusters should include all relevant data providers, including government ministries, statistical agencies, and research institutions.
- **Prioritize systematic data collection:** Encourage countries to institutionalize routine data collection for BR indicators, ensuring alignment with broader national data systems and investment plans.
- **Ensure data consistency and traceability:** Implement quality control measures, including traceability protocols and documentation standards, to improve the credibility and usability of submitted data.

- **Invest in capacity building:** Provide training and resources to national BR focal points and data cluster members to improve technical understanding of indicators, templates, and data validation processes
- **Enhance technical backstopping:** Offer continuous support and guidance during the data collection, reporting, and validation cycles to reduce data gaps and increase the accuracy of reported values.
- **Assess innovative methodological approaches:** It is crucial to evaluate the versatility of innovative methodological approaches, such as Bayesian estimation methods and AI-based out-of-sample prediction procedures, to deal with issues including missing data and data outliers.

By reinforcing country-level data ecosystems and addressing reporting challenges proactively, African countries will be better positioned not only to track progress but also to accelerate action toward the shared vision of inclusive agricultural transformation and poverty reduction.

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ABOUT AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is a pan-African non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal.

Inspired by the ambitions of Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent's needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent's development aspirations, creating wealth, and changing livelihoods for the better.

AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost growth and prosperity.

Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support, data management, digital products, and technology—as well as partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit www.akademiy2063.org.



Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa



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