

GUIDE TO THE

TOTAL ENERGIES AFCON U20 EGYPT 2023 | COSAFA QUALIFIER

[ESWATINI, OCTOBER 7-16 2022]



 TotalEnergies U-20 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS EGYPT 2023





MESSAGE FROM COSAFA PRESIDENT **ARTUR DE ALMEIDA E SILVA**

IT GIVES US GREAT PLEASURE to be able to host the TotalEnergies AFCON U20 Egypt 2023 | COSAFA Qualifier in Eswatini this year, the first time this beautiful country has staged our event in this age-group in nearly three decades.

It is a competition of great significance, of course, as it is the beginning of the journey to the FIFA Under-20 World Cup that will be held in Indonesia next year.

The coveted regional trophy is enough of a prize to fight for, but there will now be the added carrot of continental qualification as well, with the two teams that reach the final in Eswatini able to celebrate that success.

They will then hope to be among the four leading nations at the TotalEnergies AFCON U20 Egypt 2023 and in doing so book a flight to Asia.

We wish all 12 competing teams well and look forward to witnessing the top young talent in the region in action.

There was much disappointment when this tournament was postponed in December 2021 due to the rise of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 that made international travel and the logistics of hosting the event a major challenge.

We extend our thanks to the Government of Eswatini and the Eswatini Football Association for their patience and the continued support they have given to hosting the championship, albeit some 10 months later than expected.

That was the only time the Under-20 competition has not been played since 2016, and it is gratifying to see that, barring unforeseen circumstances like the pandemic, we have been able to host our junior tournaments, including the Under-17s, on an annual basis.

Our mandate at COSAFA is to develop the game on and off the pitch and this experience for players, coaches, match officials and administrators will be invaluable in helping them gain knowledge and expertise.

It is by hosting and organising tournaments such as these that we see skills improve in all areas, as there is nothing better than hands-on experience to gain knowledge.

I am sure the football will be entertaining and it is always exciting to catch a glimpse of the stars of tomorrow.



NOTES BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF SPORTS CULTURE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOTALENERGIES U20 AFCON/ COSAFA QUALIFIERS

ON BEHALF OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

and the Eswatini populace, we would like to acknowledge COSAFA for choosing our beautiful country to be the hosts of the TotalEnergies U20 AFCON Qualifiers/ COSAFA Qualifiers. The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini will support this significant competition as its success will also have a lot of benefit for the country.

As Government, we are aware of the power of football both economically and socially. The hosting of this competition will not only benefit the football industry, but the whole economy of the country as other aspects of the economy will immensely benefit. As a highlight, the tourism industry will be abuzz as the delegations from outside the country will need hospitality. This has presented a perfect opportunity for us as a country to also market our country to the international community through football.

EmaSwati are known to be rich in culture and also their excellence in hospitality. Let us take advantage of this competition to also share some of our cultural traits which is one aspect that make our country to be unique in the globe. The hospitality aspect will also play a formidable role in enhancing the experience that our guests will have whilst still in the country which will motivate them to come back to the country in future. As Eswatini we believe that this competition will also leave some legacy in as far as the country is concerned.



MESSAGE FROM NELSON ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT PETER SIMELANE

AS ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (EFA),

we are very much humbled and honoured to COSAFA for granting our country the hosting rights of this prestigious competition.

Over the years, this competition has unveiled a lot of talent and for us we want all the participants to have great memories in as far as this edition is concerned.

We also salute the Government on granting us the go ahead in as far as the execution of this competition in the country is concerned. We also acknowledge the splendid support from other stakeholders as this competition is not about the football association only, but it is a national project.

To the populace of the country, we believe that everyone has a role to play in making this competition to be a success.

The technical team of our national team has been very busy preparing the players for this championship. As we will be playing on home turf, the expectations are high and we believe the players are ready to compete.

We also plea for the presence of player number twelve (12) which are the fans at all the match venues which are the Somhlolo National Stadium and Mavuso Sports Centre. The presence of the fans will create the much-needed vibe throughout the competition.

With each group consisting

of at least a former champion from previous editions of the competition, and the fact that this edition is also the TotalEnergies U20 AFCON Egypt 2023 | COSAFA Qualifiers makes one to expect fireworks from the first match up to the last one.

Having said that, we hope our national team will go all the way and win the championship. We have to take advantage of playing on home turf which will be an extra motivation for us as a team, and we believe our national team can achieve this feat.

This TotalEnergies U20 AFCON Egypt 2023 | COSAFA Qualifiers means a lot to the EFA and we are confident that it will contribute immensely towards the development of the football industry in the country. Since this competition comes with some football development programmes, as a football association and family; we want to maximise the expertise that will be shared during the implementation of these programmes in order to develop our football.

Also, the fact that our local football people have significant roles to play in the successful implementation of this competition, this will enhance their expertise and experience which will also benefit our local football.

We are looking forward in welcoming the COSAFA football family in Eswatini and also in sharing the football spirit and our pride. Thank you very much.



HOW TO FOLLOW THE TotalEnergies AFCON U20 Egypt 2023 | COSAFA Qualifier ACTION!

There are a number of ways you can keep up with the action in the 2022 COSAFA tournaments, be it live action, news, views or videos!

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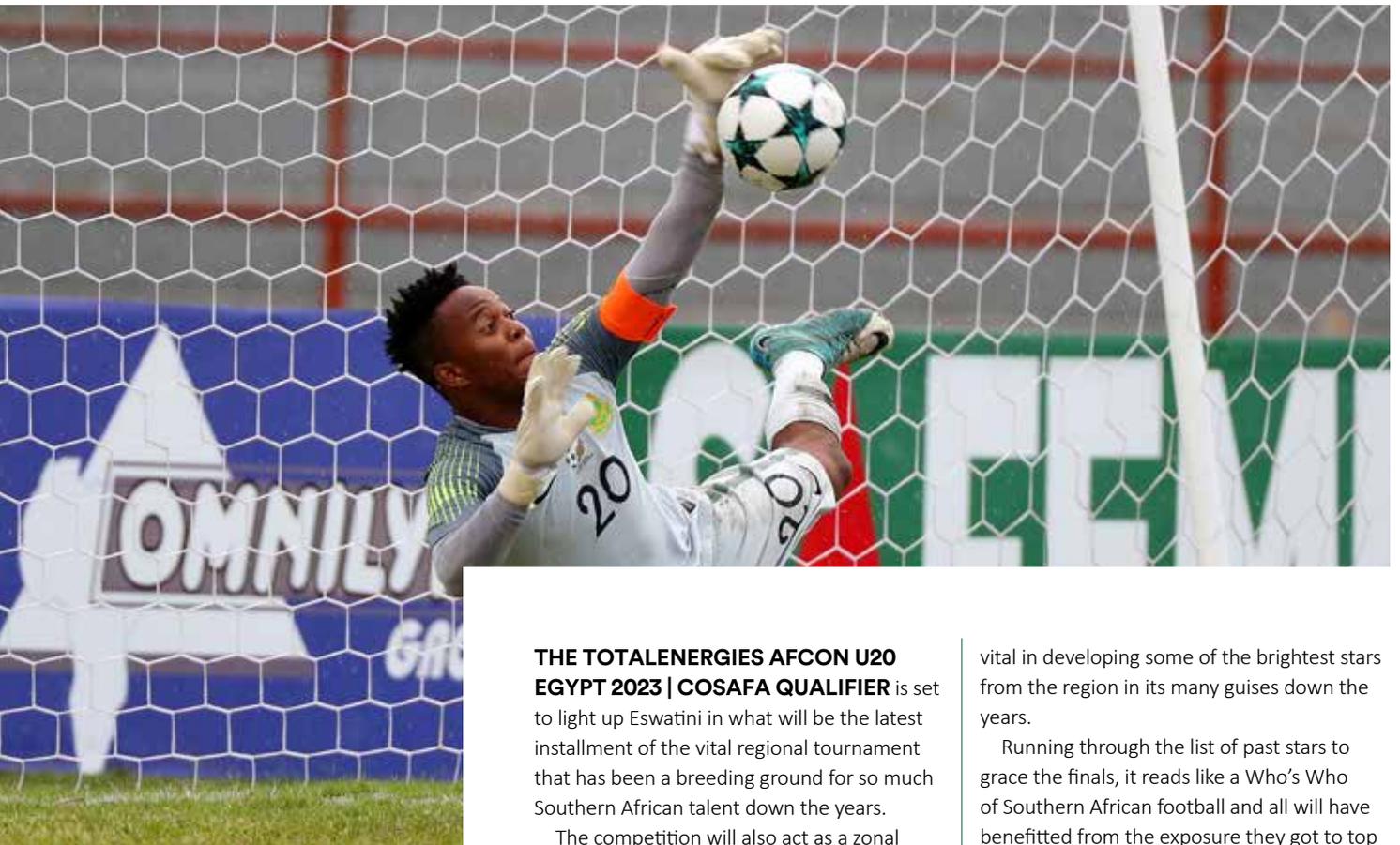
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HISTORY OF THE COSAFU REGIONAL **UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP**



THE TOTALENERGIES AFCON U20 EGYPT 2023 | COSAFU QUALIFIER

is set to light up Eswatini in what will be the latest installment of the vital regional tournament that has been a breeding ground for so much Southern African talent down the years.

The competition will also act as a zonal qualifier for the Under-20 Cup of Nations in Egypt from February 14-March 6, with the two finalists this year set to advance to the continental showpiece.

Mozambique will be looking to retain the title they won in 2020, as fans get to see a new batch of young stars from the Southern African region.

There was no competition played in 2021 as the event that was scheduled for Eswatini was postponed due to the emergence of the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

But it is back on the calendar now and the COSAFU Under-20 Championship has been

vital in developing some of the brightest stars from the region in its many guises down the years.

Running through the list of past stars to grace the finals, it reads like a Who's Who of Southern African football and all will have benefitted from the exposure they got to top level competition.

From a South African perspective, the likes of Itumeleng Khune, Lerato Chabangu, Daine Klate, Elrio van Heerden and Lebohang Mokoena all represented their country at this level and gone on to forge successful club and international careers.

Other young stars such as Clifford Mulenga and Isaac Chansa (both Zambia), Tinashe Nengomasha and Onismor Bhasera (both Zimbabwe), as well as Jimmy Zakazaka (Malawi), have used the tournament to persuade clubs outside of their country that they have a bright future in the game.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

| | |
|------|--------------|
| 1983 | Zambia |
| 1985 | Zimbabwe |
| 1986 | Zambia |
| 1988 | Zimbabwe |
| 1990 | Zimbabwe |
| 1993 | Zambia |
| 1995 | Zambia |
| 1997 | Zambia |
| 1999 | Zambia |
| 2000 | South Africa |
| 2001 | Zimbabwe |
| 2002 | Zimbabwe |
| 2003 | Zambia |
| 2004 | South Africa |
| 2005 | Madagascar |
| 2006 | South Africa |
| 2007 | Zimbabwe |
| 2008 | South Africa |
| 2009 | South Africa |
| 2010 | Zambia |
| 2011 | Zambia |
| 2013 | South Africa |
| 2016 | Zambia |
| 2017 | South Africa |
| 2018 | South Africa |
| 2019 | Zambia |
| 2020 | Mozambique |

MOST WINS

11
Zambia

8
South Africa

6
Zimbabwe

1
Madagascar,
Mozambique



The tournament was first played in 1983, but was a little-recognised get-together of a few of the stalwarts of the region, including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Botswana.

The Apartheid laws of South Africa at the time meant they were excluded, and the country only entered the fray for the first time in 1993.

Those early years were dominated by the 'Two Zs', with Zambia winning six and Zimbabwe three of the first nine tournaments held.

South Africa were the first team to break the mould when they triumphed in 2000, having been losing finalists in 1995 and 1999.

A year earlier, in 1999, they had taken over the hosting of the event, which before then had been spread around the region. Each tournament up until 2009 was held in the Rainbow Nation, but the winners were less easy to predict.

Madagascar became only the fourth country to win the event when they surprisingly triumphed in 2005, beating shock finalists Lesotho 1-0 in the final.

Before Lesotho in 2013, the previous two installments, in 2010 and 2011, were hosted by Botswana, with Zambia extending their winning streak to three with success in both.

They added an 10th title in 2016 when they romped through the competition, defeating hosts South Africa 2-1 in the final.

South Africa regained the trophy in 2017 though after Zambia surprisingly exited in the pool stages.

And they won again in 2018, this time defeated Zimbabwe in the final after a tense penalty shoot-out.

But Zambia are always in contention and they raced the title on home soil in 2019, defeating old enemy South Africa 3-0 in the decider to complete an excellent tournament.

Mozambique have long produced excellent footballers and they finally got some reward at junior level as they lifted the trophy for the first time in 2020.

They did it the hard way too, seeing off South Africa in the pool stages before defeating Zambia on penalties in the semifinals. They triumphed after a 1-0 win over Namibia in the final.

But more than lifting the trophy, the competition is about developing the talent of tomorrow and giving young players the chance to tackle their peers in a highly-competitive environment that should help to prepare them for the challenges of senior international football. ●

TOTAL ENERGIES AFCON U20 EGYPT 2023 | COSAFA QUALIFIER IN NUMBERS

0 – **THE ONLY FINAL TO FINISH GOALLESS** was in 2001 when Zambia needed a penalty shoot-out to beat Angola 5-3 on spot-kicks. The only other final to go to a shoot-out was in 2018 when South Africa defeated Zimbabwe 4-3 after a 1-1 draw.

1 – Mozambique were the top side in 2020 as they defeated Namibia 1-0 in the final **TO CLAIM A FIRST EVER COSAFA TITLE** in any age-group. With no competition in 2021 due to the Omicron, they are still the defending champions!

2 – **THE HIGHEST FINISH FOR ANY GUEST NATION** was the silver medal Kenya won in 2013 when they lost 2-0 to South Africa in the final.

3 – **ANGOLA LOST THREE FINALS IN A ROW** between 2000 and 2002. They made the deciding match in 2011 but lost once more. They have yet to win the regional title.

3 – **THIS WILL BE THE THIRD TIME ESWATINI** has hosted the competition after also doing so in 1985 and 1993.

4 – **ZAMBIA HAVE WON FOUR OF THE LAST EIGHT COSAFA** Men's Under-20 Championships played, with South Africa breaking their run in 2013, 2017 and 2018, and Mozambique in 2020.

5 – **ONLY FIVE NATIONS HAVE WON THE COSAFA UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS** – Zambia (11 times), South Africa (8), Zimbabwe (6), Madagascar (1) and Mozambique (1).

7 – **THE MOST GOALS SCORED IN A GAME** in the 2020 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship as South Africa defeated Lesotho 7-0.

9 – **ANGOLA'S AMBROSINI SALVADOR** finished top-scorer at the 2019 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships with six goals, and then joint top-scorer in 2020 with a further three. He has nine goals in the last two editions.

9 – **THE MOST NUMBER OF GOALS SCORED IN A SINGLE FINAL** – South Africa defeated Zambia 5-4 in 2004!

11 – **THE NUMBER OF TITLES WON BY ZAMBIA**, the most successful nation in the history of the COSAFA Under-20 Championships.

11 – **THE NUMBER OF YEARS IN A ROW** that South Africa hosted the event between 1999 and 2009.

12 – **THE NUMBER OF TEAMS THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO COMPETE** in this year's Championships – Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zambia.



40

THE NUMBER OF GOALS SCORED at the 2020 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships in 19 games, a little over two per match.



TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE TO THE TotalEnergies AFCON U20 Egypt 2023 | COSAFU Qualifier

There are 12 exciting sides that will take part in the TotalEnergies AFCON U20 Egypt 2023 | COSAFU Qualifier in Eswatini from October 7-16.

[Here is a brief guide to all of them!](#)





ANGOLA

Angola have finished third in each of the last three editions and will be desperate to turn bronze into gold.

They also lost three finals in a row between 2000 and 2002, and then again in 2011 when they went down 2-1 to Zambia.

After finishing fourth in 2016, Angola disappointed by their own high standards in 2017 when they picked up just a single point from their three games to finish bottom of Group C.

They finished third in 2018, reaching the semifinals as runners-up in Group C, but then lost 1-0 to eventual winners South Africa in the semifinals.

The team claimed the bronze medal though with a 2-1 success over home side Zambia.

And it would be a repeat in 2019 as they waltzed through their group with three wins, including 8-0 versus Seychelles, but lost 3-0 to Zambia in the semifinals. The consolation was a 5-1 victory over Madagascar in the bronze medal match.

A not unfamiliar refrain continued in 2020, the last competition played, as edged through the group stages on head-to-head after a loss to Eswatini (0-1) and victory over Botswana (4-0) in a three-team pool.

They lost 1-0 in the semifinals to Namibia, but

then beat Zambia 2-12 to claim yet another bronze medal.

Angola have appeared at the finals of the African Under-20 Championships on six previous occasions and were champions in 2001 when they defeated Ghana in the finals that were played in Ethiopia.

That team had the likes of Gilberto and Mantorras, who would go on to have stellar senior careers.

Their other five appearances at the continental showpiece have been less successful, all ending in exits before the knockout stages. Their last appearance was all the way back in 2005.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1999 | Did not enter |
| 2000 | Runners-up |
| 2001 | Runners-up |
| 2002 | Runners-up |
| 2003 | Group stages |
| 2004 | Fourth |
| 2005 | Group stages |
| 2006 | Group stages |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Third |
| 2009 | Group stages |
| 2010 | Group stages |
| 2011 | Runners-up |
| 2013 | Third |
| 2016 | Fourth |
| 2017 | Group stages |
| 2018 | Third |
| 2019 | Third |
| 2020 | Third |



BOTSWANA

Botswana will be seeking a rare route out of the group stages when they compete in Eswatini, with the Young Zebras having only qualified for the knockout rounds twice in the last 23 years, most often falling short in the pool stages.

They have been regular participants in the COSAFA Under-20 Championships despite missing the tournament in 2017 and still seek a first ever trip to the final.

Their best finishes in this competition came in 2009 and 2011 when they managed third place.

First they beat Madagascar 3-2 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the bronze-medal play-off in 2009. The Young Zebras had made it through their pool but lost 3-0 to South Africa in the semifinals.

In 2011, on home soil, they lost to Zambia in the semifinals before beating Malawi to bronze.

In 2016 the side lost all three of their pool games without scoring a goal, while in 2018 they claimed four points from three games with a victory over Lesotho, a draw with Angola and defeat to Zimbabwe.

It was the same in 2019, where a 5-0 loss to hosts and eventual champions Zambia was

followed by a draw with Malawi (2-2) and a win over Comoros (2-1).

They came might close to a place in the knockout stages in 2020, the last time the competition was played, as they lost to Angola 4-0 but beat Eswatini 1-0, a result which saw all three sides on three points in the three-team group.

It was therefore decided on head-to-head and they missed out.

The side have never qualified for the Africa Under-20 Championships, which will be a target of theirs this year.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1999 | Group stages |
| 2000 | Group stages |
| 2001 | Group stages |
| 2002 | Group stages |
| 2003 | Group stages |
| 2004 | Group stages |
| 2005 | Group stages |
| 2006 | Group stages |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Group stages |
| 2009 | Third |
| 2010 | Group stages |
| 2011 | Third |
| 2013 | Group stages |
| 2016 | Group stages |
| 2017 | Did not enter |
| 2018 | Group stages |
| 2019 | Group stages |
| 2020 | Group stages |



COMOROS

Comoros will be seeking a first ever victory at the COSAFA Under-20 regional championship when they take part this year for what will be the third edition in a row.

They made their bow in 2007 when they exited in the first round, losing their only match 4-0 to Zimbabwe in what was a tough debut.

They were back the following year, but did not get past the group stages, and then withdrew in 2009, not appearing again until the 2013 event, where they managed a pair of draws against Lesotho (2-2) and Mauritius (0-0), but missed out on the knockout stages after losing 3-1 to Kenya.

The next finals were only held in 2016 but Comoros appeared again, drawing with Mozambique (2-2) before a loss to DR Congo (0-2) in a three-team pool.

They did not appear in the next two editions, but returned in 2019, losing all three games to Malawi (4-0), Zambia (2-0) and Botswana (2-1).

It was, unfortunately, a similar

story in 2020 as all of their games ended in defeat as they went down to Malawi (1-0), Zambia (2-0) and Namibia (1-0), which still leaves them seeking that first win.

They have never before qualified for the Under-20 Cup of Nations, so doing so this year would be a huge show of their potential.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1999 | Did not enter |
| 2000 | Did not enter |
| 2001 | Did not enter |
| 2002 | Did not enter |
| 2003 | Did not enter |
| 2004 | Did not enter |
| 2005 | Did not enter |
| 2006 | Did not enter |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Group stages |
| 2009 | Did not enter |
| 2010 | Did not enter |
| 2011 | Did not enter |
| 2013 | Group stages |
| 2016 | Group stages |
| 2017 | Did not enter |
| 2018 | Did not enter |
| 2019 | Group stages |
| 2020 | Group stages |



ESWATINI

Eswatini will be seeking a first passage out of the group stages in 20 years at the COSAFA Under-20 regional championship and perhaps have some confidence as hosts.

The only time Eswatini have managed the feat before was in 2002 and it came via default as they lost 2-0 to Zimbabwe in the only game in Group B, which had been turned into a two-team pool by Madagascar's withdrawal.

And with the top two sides in the groups advancing to the quarterfinals, Eswatini set up a meeting with hosts South Africa in the Last 8 but lost 7-1.

They came close to repeating that knockout showing in 2019, earning six points in their pool, but not enough to see them through as the best runner-up behind winners Angola.

A 2-0 in over Mozambique was followed by success against Seychelles by the same scoreline. But a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Angola meant they missed out on the semifinals, even if their performances were vastly improved.

In fact, they did not win a match at the COSAFA Under-20 Championships between 2004 and 2016, a record they finally put right when they beat Botswana 2-0 six years ago.

That was still not enough to advance to the knockout stages though as they suffered defeats to South Africa and Lesotho later on in the competition.

They also did not manage a win in 2017, with a draw against East African guest nation Uganda sandwiched by defeats to Malawi and hosts Zambia.

It was a similar story in 2018 when they played in a shortened three-team group, but successive 4-0 losses to Mauritius and South Africa saw them exit in the first round.

They were in a three-team pool in 2020 and stunned Angola with a 1-0 win in their first game, but a loss by the same scoreline to Botswana meant they finished as runners-up, a huge missed opportunity.

Their best finish was third place all the way back in 1985 when the country also hosted the competition.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1999 | Group stages |
| 2000 | Group stages |
| 2001 | Group stages |
| 2002 | Quarterfinals |
| 2003 | Group stages |
| 2004 | Group stages |
| 2005 | Group stages |
| 2006 | Group stages |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Group stages |
| 2009 | Group stages |
| 2010 | Group stages |
| 2011 | Group stages |
| 2013 | Group stages |
| 2016 | Group stages |
| 2017 | Group stages |
| 2018 | Group stages |
| 2019 | Group stages |
| 2020 | Group stages |



LESOTHO

Lesotho's Under-20 side have excelled in the past having qualified for the African Youth Championships in 2011 and were also finalists in the COSAFA Under-20 competition as recently as 2017.

They are a team packed with potential but will want to make up for a poor outing in their last showing at the regional competition in 2020, when they lost all three matches, conceding 12 goals in the process.

They narrowly missed out on the knockout stages in the 2016 COSAFA Under-20 Championships after two wins and a loss in the pool phase meant they finished second in their group.

But they did much better in 2017, topping Group C and beating East African guest nation Uganda in the semifinals, before narrowly going down 2-1 to South Africa in the decider.

They found the going tougher in 2018 when they managed just a point from their three games after losses to Zimbabwe and Botswana, having opened with a draw against Angola.

It was the same story in 2019 as losses to Madagascar (3-0) and South Africa (4-0) came either side of a 2-2 draw with Mauritius.

Lesotho have also made the final of the COSAFA Under-20 Championships before, in 2005, when they lost 1-0 to Madagascar.

They are a nation that often punches above their weight and also finished second in the 1990 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship, as well as third (1995, 1999) and fourth (2003).

Lesotho also reached the quarterfinals of the Africa Under-20 Championship in 1989, to go with their group stages exits in 2005 and 2011.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1999 | Third |
| 2000 | Quarterfinals |
| 2001 | Group stages |
| 2002 | Group stages |
| 2003 | Fourth |
| 2004 | Group stages |
| 2005 | Runners-up |
| 2006 | Group stages |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Group stages |
| 2009 | Group stages |
| 2010 | Group stages |
| 2011 | Group stages |
| 2013 | Group stages |
| 2016 | Group stages |
| 2017 | Runners-up |
| 2018 | Group stages |
| 2019 | Group stages |
| 2020 | Group stages |



MALAWI

Malawi finished a credible fourth in the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships tournament in Botswana in 2011 having not played in the previous two installments of the competition, and then did not appear again in 2013.

They returned in 2016, but could not make it past the first round, as a draw and a loss meant they finished second in their three-team pool.

They came closer in 2017, gaining five points, but missing out on top spot in their pool on goal-difference to Uganda.

There was more frustration in 2018 as the side finished bottom of their pool with just a single point from three games after losses to Zambia and Central African guest nation DR Congo, and a draw with Mozambique.

They improved in Zambia in 2019, beating Comoros (4-0) in their opener, but a draw with Botswana (2-2) and a loss to the hosts (2-1) meant they did not advance.

Their last appearance in 2020 was also a tough outing as they won only one of their three games, against Comoros (1-0), before losses to Namibia (2-1) and Zambia (2-0) to exit in the group phase.

Malawi have yet to win

the regional showpiece competition, but did reach the final in 2003 when they lost out to Zambia in the decider.

The side last made it out of their group 11 years ago, but lost 4-2 to Angola in the semifinals and were then beaten 1-0 by hosts Botswana in the third-place play-off. They did manage third in 1986.

Malawi have qualified for the African Under-20 Championships on one occasion, finishing in the group stages in Ethiopia in 1999 when they lost all three games.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1999 | Group stages |
| 2000 | Fourth |
| 2001 | Quarterfinals |
| 2002 | Quarterfinals |
| 2003 | Runners-up |
| 2004 | Group stages |
| 2005 | Group stages |
| 2006 | Fourth |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Group stages |
| 2009 | Did not enter |
| 2010 | Did not enter |
| 2011 | Fourth |
| 2013 | Did not enter |
| 2016 | Group stages |
| 2017 | Group stages |
| 2018 | Group stages |
| 2019 | Group stages |
| 2020 | Group stages |



MAURITIUS

Mauritius will seek to show their potential at this age group level after mixed performances in recent years, though they skipped the 2020 championship altogether due to COVID-19.

Having taken just a single point from six matches in the two tournaments before the 2016 showpiece event, they came within a whisker of reaching the knockout stages that year.

They needed to beat Angola in their final pool game to advance, but were held to a 1-1 draw to end the campaign unbeaten with a win and two draws, their best showing to date in the competition.

But that was followed by disappointment in 2017 when they lost all three of their games without scoring a goal.

There was an improved showing in 2018 in a shortened three-team pool as a 5-0 loss to South Africa was followed by a 4-0 victory over Eswatini, while in 2019 they drew with Lesotho (2-2) but lost to South Africa (5-0) and Madagascar (2-1).

In Botswana in 2011, the side also lost all three of their pool matches, conceding 11 goals and scoring none, and two years later

claimed a single point from three games.

Mauritius have in fact never made it beyond the pool stages and that will be a major focus for them this year.

The side have twice before qualified for the Africa Under-20 Championships, once as hosts in 1993 and then again in 1995.

They won one game each in both finals competitions but did not advance past the pool stages.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1999 | Did not enter |
| 2000 | Group stages |
| 2001 | Group stages |
| 2002 | Group stages |
| 2003 | Group stages |
| 2004 | Group stages |
| 2005 | Group stages |
| 2006 | Group stages |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Group stages |
| 2009 | Did not enter |
| 2010 | Group stages |
| 2011 | Group stages |
| 2013 | Group stages |
| 2016 | Group stages |
| 2017 | Group stages |
| 2018 | Group stages |
| 2019 | Group stages |
| 2020 | Did not enter |



MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique finally claimed their maiden Under-20 title when they won the last edition in Nelson Mandela Bay, having previously suffered disappointment after they were beaten finalists in 2008.

They finished top of their pool last year, beating Lesotho (1-0) and Zimbabwe (2-0), before a 0-0 draw with South Africa sealed the number one position.

That was the same result in the semifinals against powerhouse Zambia, but the Young Mambas triumphed 5-4 on penalties.

It set up a decider against Namibia and Mozambique triumphed 1-0 thanks to a now famous goal from Augusto, which sealed their first ever trophy at any level in COSAFA.

They lost to hosts South Africa in the final in 2008, but that is now but a distant memory for the side after their triumph last year.

They did narrowly miss out on the semifinals in Botswana in 2011, the hosts just pipping them on goal-difference in a three-team pool that also included Eswatini.

And in 2016 they finished their three-team pool with two draws and so lost out to Central African guest nation DR Congo for a place in the knockout stages.

In 2017 they returned home

early with a single win and two defeats, though they were in a tough pool with eventual champions South Africa and North African guest nation Egypt.

They were unbeaten in 2018 with a victory over DR Congo, and draws with Malawi and Zambia, but there five points were not enough to put them into the next round.

They managed a single win over Seychelles (3-2) in 2019, to go with losses to Eswatini (2-0) and Angola (1-0).

Mozambique reached the quarterfinals of the African Under-20 Championship in 1989, but have not played in the competition proper since.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1999 | Group stages |
| 2000 | Quarterfinals |
| 2001 | Quarterfinals |
| 2002 | Quarterfinals |
| 2003 | Group stages |
| 2004 | Group stages |
| 2005 | Group stages |
| 2006 | Group stages |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Runners-up |
| 2009 | Group stages |
| 2010 | Group stages |
| 2011 | Group stages |
| 2013 | Group stages |
| 2016 | Group stages |
| 2017 | Group stages |
| 2018 | Group stages |
| 2019 | Group stages |
| 2020 | Winners |



NAMIBIA

Namibia came within a whisker of winning the championship in 2020 when they were beaten 1-0 by Mozambique in the decider, a disappointing end to a fabulous tournament.

They had qualified for the knockout rounds as the best-placed runner-up after wins over Malawi (2-1) and Comoros (1-0) in their pool, to go with a defeat to Zambia (1-0).

That set up a semifinal with more fancied Angola, but Namibia eased to a 1-0 win and booked a final spot, though ultimately they would fall short against the Young Mambas.

Namibia were also in many ways the surprise-package of the 2010 COSAFA Under-20 Championships, making it all the way to the final before losing out to Zambia.

Some of the football that they displayed was simply outstanding and players such as captain Sydney Urikhob went on to play in South Africa's PSL.

It was their best ever result in the tournament until last year, beating their semifinal showing in 2007, but they could not repeat the feat when they competed in 2013.

There they managed five

points from a possible nine to finish second in their first round pool behind the powerful South Africans.

Namibia did not compete in the last COSAFA Under-20 Championships held in South Africa in 2016, nor in 2018 and 2019.

They did play in 2017 when they beat Angola 1-0 in their opener, but then lost to Lesotho (2-1) and drew with Zimbabwe (0-0) to exit in the first round.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1999 | Group stages |
| 2000 | Quarterfinals |
| 2001 | Quarterfinals |
| 2002 | Quarterfinals |
| 2003 | Group stages |
| 2004 | Group stages |
| 2005 | Group stages |
| 2006 | Group stages |
| 2007 | Fourth |
| 2008 | Group stages |
| 2009 | Group stages |
| 2010 | Runners-up |
| 2011 | Group stages |
| 2013 | Group stages |
| 2016 | Did not enter |
| 2017 | Group stages |
| 2018 | Did not enter |
| 2019 | Did not enter |
| 2020 | Runners-up |



SEYCHELLES

Seychelles' first appearance in the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships came all the way back in 2000 when losses to Zambia (0-3) and Namibia (1-3) saw them ousted in the opening round.

They returned in 2004, but three heavy losses meant a first round exit, while the following year they lost all four games in a five-team group.

Three more defeats followed in 2007, but the next year they claimed a first ever win with a 4-2 success over Namibia.

That proved a brief glimmer of hope as they side lost both matches in a shortened pool in 2011, and all three matches in 2013 and 2016.

They did not enter the next two editions, but were back in 2019, though they lost all three matches to Angola (8-0), Eswatini (2-0) and Mozambique (3-2).

They skipped the 2020 due

to travel restriction around COVID-19, and a major aim for the side this year will be to add to their single victory at this level.

Seychelles have never before qualified for the Africa Under-20 Championships.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1999 | Did not enter |
| 2000 | Group stages |
| 2001 | Did not enter |
| 2002 | Did not enter |
| 2003 | Did not enter |
| 2004 | Group stages |
| 2005 | Group stages |
| 2006 | Did not enter |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Group stages |
| 2009 | Group stages |
| 2010 | Group stages |
| 2011 | Group stages |
| 2013 | Group stages |
| 2016 | Group stages |
| 2017 | Did not enter |
| 2018 | Did not enter |
| 2019 | Group stages |
| 2020 | Did not enter |



SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa have traditionally been one of the powerhouses in the region in Under-20 football and will be looking to regain the crown they lost to Zambia in 2019.

They have claimed the competition eight times in all, with their first title coming in 2000. They also hosted the tournament for 11 consecutive years between 1999 and 2009.

They went all the way to the final on home soil in 2016, playing some scintillating football, but lost out to Zambia in the decider with a 2-1 defeat.

That was seen as a major disappointment, but they atoned for that with a run all the way to the gold medal in 2017.

After topping their pool with a full haul of nine points, 'Amajita' edged North African guest nation Egypt 1-0 in the semifinals.

That set up a decider with Lesotho and South African emerged as 2-1 winners to take home the trophy.

They repeated that triumph in 2018, topping their shortened pool with victories over Mauritius and Eswatini, before a 1-0 win over Angola in the semifinals.

That set up a final with old foes Zimbabwe and after the match finished 1-1, South Africa claimed the penalty shoot-out 4-3.

They could not make it a hat-trick of titles though as they lost 3-0 in the 2019 final to Zambia.

They managed seven points

in their first round pool and then edged Madagascar 5-4 on penalties in the semifinals following a 2-2 draw. They had also drawn 1-1 with the Malagasy in pool play.

The side disappointed in 2020 with a first group stage exit in almost a decade, where a win over Lesotho (7-0) was coupled with draws against Zimbabwe (2-2) and Mozambique (0-0) as they finished runners-up in the pool

The side have qualified for the Africa Under-20 Championships on eight previous occasions, winning the silver medal in 1997. They finished third in 2019, and also have two fourth-place finishes (2009 and 2017).

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1999 | Runners-up |
| 2000 | Winners |
| 2001 | Fourth |
| 2002 | Third |
| 2003 | Third |
| 2004 | Winners |
| 2005 | Fourth |
| 2006 | Winners |
| 2007 | Runners-up |
| 2008 | Winners |
| 2009 | Winners |
| 2010 | Group stages |
| 2011 | Group stages |
| 2013 | Winners |
| 2016 | Runners-up |
| 2017 | Winners |
| 2018 | Winners |
| 2019 | Runners-up |
| 2020 | Group stages |



ZAMBIA

Zambia will be hoping to extend their record of COSAFA titles at Under-20 level when they compete in Eswatini this year.

Their last victory came in 2019 under coach Oswald Mutapa. It was a commanding performance from the side as they claimed a full haul of nine points in the pool stages, before seeing off Angola 3-0 in the semifinals.

That was followed by victory against old foe South Africa by the same comprehensive margin in the decider.

Zambia were also rampant in 2016 as they stormed through that competition and inflicted a 2-1 defeat on their hosts South Africa in the decider.

They went on to claim the 2017 Africa Under-20 Championships title on home soil, and also excelled at the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in South Korea.

But the side disappointed in the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship in 2017, bowing out in the first round after a defeat to East African guest nation Uganda was followed by a draw with Malawi and a win over Eswatini.

They did make the semifinals in 2018 but lost 2-1 to Zimbabwe and were then beaten 2-1 by Angola in the bronze-medal match.

They reached the semifinals again in 2020, a competition played in South Africa, winning all three pool matches against

Namibia (1-0â), Comoros (2-0) and Malawi (2-0).

They came unstuck in the semifinals though when they were held 0-0 by Mozambique, before losing 5-4 on penalties. They were beaten 2-1 by Angola in the bronze-medal match.

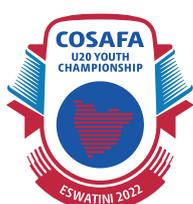
Zambia have won four of the last eight COSAFA Under-20 Championships played, one in every two, so they will hope that trend continues, and they make up for last year's disappointment.

They have also been fairly regular visitors to the Africa Under-20 Championship and have appeared at the continental tournament on seven previous occasions and apart from their gold medal in 2017, they also finished fourth in 1991, 1999 and 2007.

FINISHES IN LAST 23 YEARS

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1999 | Winners |
| 2000 | Quarterfinals |
| 2001 | Third |
| 2002 | Fourth |
| 2003 | Winners |
| 2004 | Runners-up |
| 2005 | Third |
| 2006 | Runners-up |
| 2007 | Group stages |
| 2008 | Group stages |
| 2009 | Runners-up |
| 2010 | Winners |
| 2011 | Winners |
| 2013 | Group stages |
| 2016 | Winners |
| 2017 | Group stages |
| 2018 | Fourth |
| 2019 | Winners |
| 2020 | Fourth |

TOTAL ENERGIES AFCON U20 EGYPT 2023 | COSAFA QUALIFIER STARTS JOURNEY TO WORLD CUP



ONE EXCITING FEATURE of this year's COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship will be the fact that it doubles up as a zonal qualifier for the TotalEnergies AFCON U20 Egypt 2023 that is scheduled to be hosted early next year.

Previously teams have used the regional Under-20 championship to fine-tune for qualifiers for the continental showpiece, but now it will take up that status on its own, with the two finalists both earning a place in Egypt.

The Under-20 Cup of Nations will in turn provide qualification for the 2023 FIFA Under-20 World Cup in Indonesia, meaning the COSAFA event this year in Eswatini is the beginning of that journey.

It is no surprise that South Africa's success in reaching the last two FIFA Under-20 World Cups in 2017 and 2019 is off the back of them winning the COSAFA title in 2017 and 2018.

Nine of the 14 COSAFA nations have qualified for the continental finals in the past, with Angola (2001) and Zambia (2017) the only ones to win gold.

South Africa were runners-up in 1997 and also won the bronze medal in 2019, the only other Southern African side to finish in the top three.

The four semi-finalists at the TotalEnergies AFCON U20 Egypt 2023 will book a place in the World Cup.

Here is a rundown of how the COSAFA teams have fared at the Africa Under-20 Cup of Nations, taking into account it was played as a knockout competition until 1991: ●



ANGOLA

Qualified (6): 1983, 1985, 1989, 1999, 2001, 2005

Best finish: Winners (2001)

ESWATINI

Qualified (1): 1983

Best finish: First round (1983)

LESOTHO

Qualified (3): 1989, 2005, 2011

Best finish: Group Stages (2005, 2011)

MALAWI

Qualified (1): 1999

Best finish: Group Stages (1999)

MAURITIUS

Qualified (3): 1979, 1993, 1995

Best finish: Group Stages (1993, 1995)

MOZAMBIQUE

Qualified (1): 1987

Best finish: Quarterfinals (1987)

SOUTH AFRICA

Qualified (8): 1997, 2001, 2003, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019

Best finish: Runners-up (1997)

ZAMBIA

Qualified (9): 1985, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2007, 2015, 2017

Best finish: Winners (2017)

ZIMBABWE

Qualified (3): 1981, 1983, 1985

Best finish: Quarterfinals (1983, 1985)



WHO HAVE BEEN THE TOP SIDES IN RECENT COSAFA UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS?

THE COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS has been played in five of the last six years, which is enough time to give us a sizeable sample of who have been the top performing teams in the competition since 2016.

Teams will do battle in Eswatini for the coveted trophy, but more than that, they will also hope to be in the final, with those two sides earning their place at the TotalEnergies AFCON U20 Egypt 2023 that is scheduled for early next year, with the competition a zonal qualifier this year.

Since 2016, there have been two trophy wins each for South Africa and Zambia, and one for Mozambique with no competition played in 2021 due to the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

Zambia top the table with most wins in that time having managed 16 to South Africa's 15, though they have also played in one game more.

The South Africans lead the way with most goals scored however, having netted 56 to Zambia's 44. Angola are next with 38, the only team to have passed the 30-mark.

Zambia have the highest win percentage at 69.57, with South Africa next (68.18) and Angola (45.46) third of teams who have played more than one tournament.

Teams who will want to work on this statistic include Lesotho (17.65) and Mauritius (18.18).

South Africa have only lost two matches in the competition since 2016, the 2019 final when they were thumped 3-0 by Zambia and the 2016 decider when they lost

2-1 to the same opposition.

Overall, there have been 271 goals scored in the 106 matches played, a healthy average of 2.56 goals per game.

In all there have been 18 different competitors in the last five years, including all 14 members of COSAFA, as well as guest nations Egypt, DR Congo, Uganda and Sudan. ●



COMBINED TEAM RECORDS FROM THE LAST FOUR COSAFA UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS

The table is calculated on the number of wins, then the number of draws and finally goal-difference.

| TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD |
|---------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Zambia | 23 | 16 | 3 | 4 | 44 | 13 | 31 |
| South Africa | 22 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 56 | 13 | 43 |
| Angola | 22 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 38 | 20 | 18 |
| Mozambique | 17 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | 13 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 18 | 17 | 11 |
| Namibia | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Eswatini | 13 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 13 | 23 | -10 |
| Malawi | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 15 | 19 | -4 |
| Lesotho | 17 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 33 | -23 |
| DR Congo* | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| Botswana | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 22 | -17 |
| Egypt* | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Mauritius | 11 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 25 | -14 |
| Madagascar | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| Uganda* | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Sudan* | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Comoros | 8 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 16 | -13 |
| Seychelles | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 24 | -22 |

*Invited guests

PAST COSAFA UNDER-20 STARS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship returns to the calendar having had to be postponed last year due to the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

It continues to churn out a steady stream of new stars for the senior national teams, as evidenced by the leading scorers from the past five editions.

We take a look at where they are now ahead of the 2022 edition.



2016

Luther Singh
South Africa

5 goals

Singh could not fire South Africa to the title in 2016 but has made good progress in his career and is now an established part of the Bafana Bafana squad.

At the time he was at Swedish second-tier side GAIS, but has since moved to Sporting Braga in the Portuguese league.

He has only played for the 'B' side to date there, but has had successful loan spells at top-flight sides Chaves, Moreirense and this season Paços de Ferreira, where he is a regular.

Now 23, he has a bright fixture in the game and will hope to help South Africa to the next Africa Cup of Nations finals.



2017

Muhammad Shaban
Uganda

4 goals

Shaban is also now a full Uganda international and also had a spell at top Moroccan side Raja Casablanca in the 2018-19 season.

To be fair, he had already been named 2016 FUFA Footballer of the Year before his arrival at the COSAFA tournament for the guest nation, so it was perhaps no surprise that he excelled.

He is currently with Vipers in Uganda, and was previously also linked with top South African club Orlando Pirates.



2018

Lyle Foster
South Africa
Delic Murimba
Zimbabwe

5 goals

Foster is another star on the rise and currently plies his trade with Vitoria Guimaraes in the Portuguese league, who he joined from French Ligue 1 Monaco ahead of the campaign.

The 20-year-old is also spent last season on loan at Belgium club Cercle Brugge, and featured for Monaco's first team. He is also a part of the new generation coming through at Bafana Bafana.

Murimba is perhaps surprisingly still in Zimbabwe with Triangle United, though he did have trials with top South African side Mamelodi Sundowns last year. He has also attracted interest from China.



2019

Ambrosini Salvador
Angola

6 goals

Viewed as the next wonderkid from the region, striker Salvador was the subject of a bid from Brazilian side Gremio recently that was quickly batted away by current club Primeiro de Agosto.

Primeiro have placed a US\$5-million release clause in the contract of the 18-year-old, who is surely destined for big things and could return to represent Angola in this year's COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships.



2020

Sinenjongo Mkiva
South Africa

3 goals

Salvador was the joint top-scorer again in 2020, the last time the tournament was played, and managed three goals alongside South Africa's Sinenjongo Mkiva.

The latter is currently at SuperSport United and although he has yet to make his first team debut, is making strong strides at the club and could be on the cusp of a first-team appearance.

He came through the academy at BidVest Wits before the club folded, playing with the likes of current PSL star Rowan Human. ●



2022 COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP

FIXTURES

| POOL STAGES | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| DATE | KO | GROUP | FIXTURE | VENUE |
| 07-Oct | 12h00 | A | Zambia vs Mauritius | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 07-Oct | 15h30 | A | Eswatini vs Botswana | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 08-Oct | 12h00 | B | Angola vs Lesotho | Mavuso Stadium |
| 08-Oct | 15h30 | B | Mozambique vs Seychelles | Mavuso Stadium |
| 08-Oct | 12h00 | C | South Africa vs Malawi | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 08-Oct | 15h30 | C | Namibia vs Comoros | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 09-Oct | 12h00 | A | Botswana vs Mauritius | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 09-Oct | 15h30 | A | Eswatini vs Zambia | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 10-Oct | 12h00 | B | Seychelles vs Lesotho | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 10-Oct | 15h30 | B | Mozambique vs Angola | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 10-Oct | 12h00 | C | Comoros vs Malawi | Mavuso Stadium |
| 10-Oct | 15h30 | C | Namibia vs South Africa | Mavuso Stadium |
| 11-Oct | 15h30 | A | Zambia vs Botswana | Mavuso Stadium |
| 11-Oct | 15h30 | A | Eswatini vs Mauritius | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 12-Oct | 12h00 | B | Angola vs Seychelles | Mavuso Stadium |
| 12-Oct | 12h00 | B | Mozambique vs Lesotho | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 12-Oct | 15h30 | C | South Africa vs Comoros | Mavuso Stadium |
| 12-Oct | 15h30 | C | Namibia vs Malawi | Somhlolo Stadium |
| SEMIFINALS | | | | |
| 14-Oct | 12h00 | 19 | Win Grp B vs Win Grp C | Somhlolo Stadium |
| 14-Oct | 15h30 | 20 | Win Grp A vs Best Runner-Up | Somhlolo Stadium |
| THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF | | | | |
| 16-Oct | 12h00 | 21 | Loser M19 vs Loser M20 | Somhlolo Stadium |
| FINAL | | | | |

16 October 2022 | 15h30 | Match 22

Winner Match 19 VS Winner Match 20

Somhlolo Stadium

