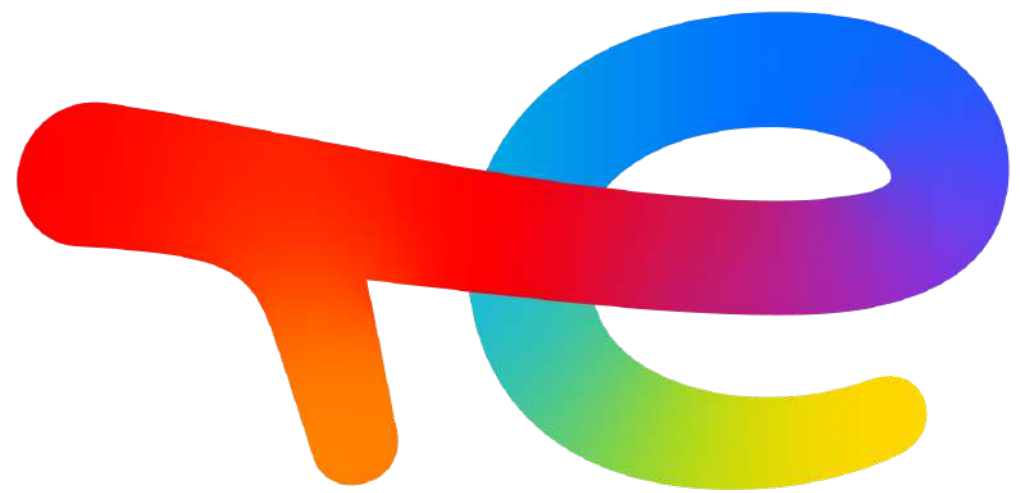




**U-17 AFRICA CUP
OF NATIONS**
MOROCCO 25

MEDIA GUIDE



TotalEnergies

SPONSOR TITLE



2023 WINNERS
SENEGAL



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HISTORY

HOW IT STARTED

The TotalEnergies CAF Under-17 Africa Cup of Nations has a long history dating back 40 years and started as knockout competition to determine the qualifiers for the 1985 FIFA Under-17 World Cup. It's first three editions were in the Under-16 age group before CAF changed the rules ahead of the 1991 edition of the FIFA finals.

The first TotalEnergies CAF U17 AFCON edition to have a finals tournament was in 1995, when Mali played host to eight teams and Ghana claimed their first title, defeating Nigeria 3-1 in the final. Ghana were imperious, winning all five games, scoring 16 goals and conceding only one. The likes of a 14-year-old Stephen Appiah went to the World Cup in Ecuador, which Ghana won too.

The TotalEnergies CAF U17 AFCON finals have been played every two years since then, bar 2021 when the tournament was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PAST WINNERS

Five nations have won the tournament twice since it was first played as a finals in 1995 – **Ghana (1995, 1999)**, **Nigeria (2001, 2007)**, **Mali (2015, 2017)**, **Cameroon (2003, 2019)** and **The Gambia (2005, 2009)**.

Gambia's first triumph in 2005 was, quite remarkably, the only win so far by the host nation.

Egypt (1997), **Burkina Faso (2011)**, **Cote d'Ivoire (2013)** and defending champions **Senegal (2023)** have each won the tournament once each.

Seven sides have made the final but have yet to lift the trophy, **Sierra Leone (2003)**, **Togo (2007)**, **Algeria (2009)**, **Rwanda (2011)**, **South Africa (2015)**, **Guinea (2019)** and **Morocco (2023)**.

MOST APPEARANCES AT THE FINALS

Mali and Nigeria have each appeared at 10 finals tournaments since 1995, the most of any nations. That includes the 2025 edition in Morocco, which Mali have qualified for but Nigeria have not. Next on the list is Burkina Faso and Cameroon, with eight appearances at the finals each.

The nation with the most finals appearances, but who has yet to win, is Guinea with seven. They did not enter the qualifiers for the TotalEnergies CAF U17 AFCON Morocco 2025.

SOME GREAT NAMES

Many current top players have passed through the TotalEnergies CAF U17 AFCON.

Nigeria striker **Victor Osimhen** won the Golden Boot in 2015, and his compatriot **Kelechi Iheanacho** was second two years before.

Bertrand Traoré was a star for Burkina Faso in 2011, while Malien midfielder **Cheick Doucoure**, now at Crystal Palace in the Premier League, was part of the 2021 tournament.



Victor Osimhen
Nigeria



Kelechi Iheanacho
Nigeria



Bertrand Traoré
Burkina Faso



Cheick Doucoure
Mali

PAST WINNERS LIST

CAF African U-16 Qualifying for World Cup		CAF African U-17 Qualifying for World Cup	
Year	Country	Year	Country
1985	Congo	1991	Ghana
1987	Côte d'Ivoire	1993	ghana
1989	Nigeria		

CAF African U-17 Championship				CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations	
Year	Country	Year	Country	Year	Country
1995	Ghana	2007	Nigeria	2017	Mali
1997	Egypt	2009	Gambia	2019	Cameroon
1999	Ghana	2011	Burkina Faso	2021	Not played (COVID-19)
2001	Nigeria	2013	Cote d'Ivoire	2023	Senegal
2003	Cameroon	2015	Mali		
2005	Gambia				

TOTAL WINS (AS A FINALS TOURNAMENT)

#	Country	Year	#	Country	Year
2	Ghana	1995, 1999	1	Burkina Faso	2011
2	Nigeria	2001, 2007	1	Ivory Coast	2013
2	Mali	2015, 2017	1	Egypt	1997
2	Cameroon	2003, 2019	1	Senegal	2023
2	Gambia	2005, 2009			



HOST COUNTRY: MOROCCO

Official languages: Arabic, Berber

Population: 36,828,330 (2024)

Currency: Moroccan dirham

Morocco will play host the TotalEnergies CAF Under-17 Africa Cup of Nations for the second time having previously staged the competition in 2013.

The North African nation was due to host in 2021, but that edition was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Morocco has become a key actor on the African football stage on and off the pitch.

With passionate fans and world-class facilities, Morocco will also host the 2024 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations in July 2025 and the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations in December 2025/January 2026.

They are also co-hosts of the 2030 FIFA World Cup with Spain and Portugal, the second time the global showpiece event will be staged on African soil after South Africa in 2010.

On the pitch, the men's senior national team reached the semifinals of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, the first time an African nation had made it to the last-4.

And the women's side excelled on debut at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, where they made the round of 16.

Moroccan teams are always competitive in CAF Interclub competitions and the local Botola Pro 1 is a thriving domestic league.

Morocco has outstanding infrastructure for travel and accommodation, and in 2024 welcomed a record 17.4-million tourists to the country.

Travel between cities is easy and affordable, and the people hospitable and welcoming.

HOST CITIES



CASABLANCA

Casablanca is the largest city in Morocco and the country's economic and business centre.

Located on the Atlantic coast in the central-western part of Morocco, the greater metropole has a population of over 4.27 million.

The Casablanca Tramway is the rapid transit tram system, while the city is also served by the Mohammed V International Airport, and by three main railway stations run by the national rail service, the ONCF.

MOHAMMEDIA

Mohammedia is a port city on the west coast of Morocco between Casablanca and Rabat in the region of Casablanca-Settat, and is the center of the Moroccan petroleum industry.

It is about a 25-minute drive from Casablanca and a 40-minute drive from Rabat.

According to a 2014 census it had a population of 208,611. The city can be navigated with taxis and busses, while intercity travel can be done by train or taxi.



EL JADIDA

El Jadida is a major port city on the Atlantic coast of Morocco and has a population of almost 171,000 according to a 2023 census, with its stunning fortified old city sea walls.

The city is a popular resort and destination for both Moroccan and international tourists. It takes a little under two hours to drive there from Rabat, and a little over an hour from Casablanca.

It is also well serviced by trains and busses.

THE STADIUMS



EL BACHIR STADIUM

City: Mohammédia

Capacity: 10,000

The El Bachir Stadium was built in 1954 but renovated in 2019 and is home to local side SCC Mohammédia.

It has a grass surface and was named after a former Mohammédia player, Abdessalam Bachir, a promising player who passed away in a tragic accident.

The stadium will host matches in Group A and the final fixture in Group B, as well as a quarterfinal, semifinal and the final of the TotalEnergies CAF Under-17 Africa Cup of Nations on April 19.

Main stadium for: Group A



LARBI ZAOULI STADIUM

City: Casablanca

Capacity: 25,000

The stadium is currently the temporary home of Raja and Wydad Casablanca while their Mohammed V Stadium is being renovated ahead of the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations that starts in December.

The Larbi Zaouli Stadium had its own renovations in 2019 and is also a grass surface. It will host matches in Group B and the final game in Group A, as well as a quarterfinal, semifinal and third-place play-off.

Main stadium for: Group B



BEN M'HAMED EL ABDI STADIUM

City: El Jadida

Capacity: 15,000

The stadium is the home of the Difaa El Jadida club and is named after their greatest player, Ben M'Hamed El Abdi. It was expanded in 2009 and renovated again in 2017 and is a grass surface.

It will host matches in Group C and the final game in Group D, as well as a quarterfinal, and both FIFA Under-17 World Cup play-off matches to determine the ninth and 10th teams that qualify for the global showpiece competition.

Main stadium for: Group C



BERRECHID MUNICIPAL STADIUM

City: Casablanca

Capacity: 5,000

The Berrechid Municipal Stadium is home to Botola club CA Youssoufia Berrechid and has a capacity of 5,000.

It has an artificial surface and will host games in Group D and the final game in Group C, as well as a quarterfinal.

Main stadium for: Group D





FIXTURES

GROUP A

MOROCCO	22:00 Local Time	UGANDA
March 30, 2025 El Bachir Stadium - Mohammedia		
TANZANIA	14:00 Local Time	ZAMBIA
March 31, 2025 El Bachir Stadium - Mohammedia		
UGANDA	17:00 Local Time	TANZANIA
April 3, 2025 El Bachir Stadium - Mohammedia		
ZAMBIA	20:00 Local Time	MOROCCO
April 3, 2025 El Bachir Stadium - Mohammedia		
MOROCCO	20:00 Local Time	TANZANIA
April 6, 2025 El Bachir Stadium - Mohammedia		
UGANDA	20:00 Local Time	ZAMBIA
April 6, 2025 Larbi Zaouli Stadium - Casablanca		

GROUP B

BURKINA FASO	17:00 Local Time	CAMEROON
March 31, 2025 Larbi Zaouli Stadium - Casablanca		
SOUTH AFRICA	20:00 Local Time	EGYPT
March 31, 2025 Larbi Zaouli Stadium - Casablanca		
CAMEROON	14:00 Local Time	SOUTH AFRICA
April 3, 2025 Larbi Zaouli Stadium - Casablanca		
EGYPT	17:00 Local Time	BURKINA FASO
April 3, 2025 Larbi Zaouli Stadium - Casablanca		
BURKINA FASO	17:00 Local Time	SOUTH AFRICA
April 6, 2025 Larbi Zaouli Stadium - Casablanca		
CAMEROON	17:00 Local Time	EGYPT
April 6, 2025 El Bachir Stadium - Mohammedia		

GROUP C

SENEGAL	14:00 Local Time	GAMBIA
April 1, 2025 El Abdi Stadium - El Jadida		
SOMALIA	17:00 Local Time	TUNISIA
April 1, 2025 El Abdi Stadium - El Jadida		
GAMBIA	14:00 Local Time	SOMALIA
April 4, 2025 El Abdi Stadium - El Jadida		
TUNISIA	17:00 Local Time	SENEGAL
April 4, 2025 El Abdi Stadium - El Jadida		
SENEGAL	20:00 Local Time	SOMALIA
April 7, 2025 El Abdi Stadium - El Jadida		
GAMBIA	20:00 Local Time	TUNISIA
April 7, 2025 Berrechid Stadium - Casablanca		

GROUP D

MALI	17:00 Local Time	ANGOLA
April 1, 2025 Berrechid Stadium - Casablanca		
COTE D'IVOIRE	20:00 Local Time	CENTRAL AFRICA
April 1, 2025 Berrechid Stadium - Casablanca		
ANGOLA	17:00 Local Time	COTE D'IVOIRE
April 4, 2025 Berrechid Stadium - Casablanca		
CENTRAL AFRICA	20:00 Local Time	MALI
April 4, 2025 Berrechid Stadium - Casablanca		
MALI	17:00 Local Time	COTE D'IVOIRE
April 7, 2025 Berrechid Stadium - Casablanca		
ANGOLA	17:00 Local Time	CENTRAL AFRICA
April 7, 2025 El Abdi Stadium - El Jadida		

1/4 FINAL

QF1 1st A	20:00 Local Time	2nd B
April 10, 2025 El Bachir Stadium - Mohammedia		
QF2 1st B	17:00 Local Time	2nd A
April 10, 2025 Larbi Zaouli Stadium - Casablanca		
QF3 1st C	20:00 Local Time	2nd D
April 11, 2025 El Abdi Stadium - El Jadida		
QF4 1st D	17:00 Local Time	2nd C
April 11, 2025 Berrechid Stadium - Casablanca		

PLAY OFFS

3rd A	17:00 Local Time	3rd C
April 12, 2025 El Abdi Stadium - El Jadida		
3rd B	20:00 Local Time	3rd D
April 12, 2025 El Abdi Stadium - El Jadida		

1/2 FINAL

SF1 QF1	20:00 Local Time	QF4
April 15, 2025 El Bachir Stadium - Mohammedia		
SF2 QF2	17:00 Local Time	QF3
April 15, 2025 Larbi Zaouli Stadium - Casablanca		

3RD PLACE

Loser SF1	20:00 Local Time	Loser SF2
April 18, 2025 Larbi Zaouli Stadium - Casablanca		

FINAL

Winner SF1	20:00 Local Time	Winner SF2
April 19, 2025 El Bachir Stadium - Mohammedia		





**GROUP
A**

MOROCCO



Morocco enters the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations as one of the tournament favorites, boasting a talented squad mixed with domestic and European-based players.

As hosts, they will be aiming to secure their first-ever U-17 AFCON title, building on their impressive performances in recent youth competitions. With a strong footballing culture and growing success at the youth level, Morocco is determined to make a deep run in the tournament and secure qualification for the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Morocco automatically qualified as hosts but still participated in the UNAF U-17 Championship in Casablanca, finishing as runners-up. Despite not winning the title, they showcased their attacking strength, most notably in a resounding 5-1 victory over Egypt, the eventual tournament winners.

Throughout the competition, Ziyad Baha emerged as a key figure, netting three goals, while Ismail El Aoud contributed two goals, playing a crucial role in Morocco's strong finish.

COMPETITION HISTORY

Morocco has been steadily building its reputation in African youth football, though they have had limited appearances in the U-17 AFCON.

Their best-ever finish came in 2023, when they reached the final in Algeria but fell just short against Senegal in a narrow defeat.

That campaign earned them a spot at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Indonesia, where they made history by reaching the quarter-finals before being eliminated by Mali.

Notably, former Fiorentina and Manchester United midfielder Sofyan Amrabat was once a standout player for Morocco at the U-17 level.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Ibrahim Rabbaj

One of Chelsea's most promising young attackers, Rabbaj has been involved in nearly three goals or assists per game, making him a major threat in Morocco's attacking setup.

Ziyad Baha

A clinical forward with a natural instinct for goal, Baha finished as Morocco's top scorer in the UNAF U-17 Championship with three goals.

Ismail El Aoud

The Valencia midfielder is a key playmaker, renowned for his technical ability, composure on the ball, and ability to dictate the tempo of the game.

Hamza Bouhadi

The team captain, Bouhadi is a highly-rated right-back, known for his defensive solidity and leadership qualities.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Morocco is managed by Nabil Baha, a former international who has instilled a possession-based philosophy combined with a well-structured defensive approach.

Baha, who led Morocco to a second-place finish at the UNAF U-17 Championship, took over from Said Chiba after the U-17 World Cup in Indonesia.

His task now is to guide Morocco to their first-ever TotalEnergies CAF U-17 AFCON title and secure back-to-back World Cup qualifications.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

Morocco will enter the tournament with high expectations, bolstered by their recent triumph at the Antalya Youth Cup in Türkiye, where they gained valuable experience against international opposition.

Drawn in Group A, they will face Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia—two East African sides with similar fast-paced playing styles and a Zambian team known for its physicality.

With home advantage and a technically gifted squad, Morocco will be targeting a strong group stage performance to set the stage for a deep tournament run.





GROUP
A

UGANDA



Uganda heads into the TotalEnergies U-17 Africa Cup of Nations eager to make an impact on their second-ever appearance at the tournament. The Cubs have shown significant progress in youth football over the past decade, and their qualification campaign underlines their ambition to compete at the highest level. With a squad boasting exciting attacking talent and solid leadership, Uganda is aiming to advance beyond the group stage and stake their claim as one of Africa's rising football nations.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Uganda secured their place in the 2025 U-17 AFCON by dominating the CECAFA region, winning the U-17 Championship held on home soil. Their attacking prowess was on full display, as they netted 10 goals in three matches before facing Tanzania in the final. Their campaign was highlighted by a 5-0 victory over Kenya and a 4-1 win against Somalia, demonstrating their ability to dismantle defenses with ease. Prolific striker James Bogere was a standout performer, finishing as the tournament's top scorer with seven goals in four matches, including two hat-tricks. Meanwhile, captain Richard Okello provided defensive resilience and leadership, ensuring the Cubs remained disciplined and composed throughout the competition.

COMPETITION HISTORY

This marks Uganda's second appearance in the U-17 AFCON, having made their debut in 2019 under Ghanaian coach Samuel Kwasi Fabin. In their maiden campaign in Tanzania, Uganda registered one win, one draw, and one loss, finishing third in their group behind Nigeria and Angola. Though they narrowly missed out on progressing further, the experience helped lay the foundation for the nation's youth development.

Uganda has since strengthened its youth system, and this tournament presents an opportunity to showcase their progress on the continental stage.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

James Bogere

A lethal goal-scorer, Bogere was the top scorer in the CECAFA U-17 Championship, netting seven goals in four matches, including two hat-tricks. His ability to find the net will be crucial for Uganda.

Richard Okello

A commanding presence in the backline, Okello is a natural leader who provides defensive stability and motivation to his teammates.

Magala Isima Mulala

Named MVP of the 2024 Uganda Secondary Schools Championship, Mulala is a dynamic midfielder who contributed two goals during the CECAFA tournament.

Abubakali Walusimbi

The best player of the CECAFA U-17 tournament, Walusimbi possesses excellent technical ability and vision, making him a key creative force in Uganda's midfield.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Head coach Brian Ssenyondo has shaped a squad that plays with cohesion, discipline, and attacking intent. His tactical philosophy emphasizes: Structured attacking play, with a focus on breaking down defenses through quick movement. Fast transitions, ensuring the team can counterattack effectively. Defensive organization, allowing the Cubs to remain compact and difficult to break down. Under Ssenyondo's leadership, Uganda has developed a strong team identity, which could be a key factor in their success at the tournament.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

Uganda's success will depend on how well they handle pressure and execute their tactical game plan. If they can build on their strong attacking form and defensive organization, they could emerge as one of the surprise packages of the tournament. Uganda is determined to make history by qualifying for the FIFA U-17 World Cup for the first time. However, they face a tough challenge in Group A, where they will compete against:

Morocco: A technically gifted side with home support, making them one of the tournament favorites.

Tanzania (CECAFA Rivals) – A familiar opponent that will provide a highly competitive East African clash.

Tanzania: A fellow East African side that they will know well from their regional championship down the years, even if this is a fresh group of players.

Zambia: A physically strong and fast-paced team that will test Uganda's defensive discipline.





**GROUP
A**

TANZANIA



Tanzania arrives at the TotalEnergies U-17 Africa Cup of Nations determined to make history by advancing beyond the group stage for the first time. With a squad blending emerging talent and disciplined tactical structure, the team aims to prove its growth in African youth football.

Having come close to glory in the CECAFA U-17 Championship, Tanzania will look to carry that momentum into the continental stage as they seek their first-ever FIFA U-17 World Cup qualification.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Tanzania booked their spot at the 2025 U-17 AFCON after finishing as runners-up in the CECAFA U-17 Championship. Despite a 2-1 loss to Uganda in the final, their journey to the tournament was impressive, highlighted by a dominant 4-0 victory over South Sudan in the semi-finals.

A key figure in their campaign was Abel Josiah, who scored two crucial goals, including one in the final. The team showcased attacking depth, with five different players getting on the scoresheet throughout the competition.

COMPETITION HISTORY

Tanzania has participated in the U-17 AFCON twice before, in 2017 and 2019, but is yet to progress beyond the group stage. Their most notable appearance came in 2019, when they hosted the tournament, providing invaluable experience for their young players.

Despite their past struggles, Tanzania's youth system has developed several talents who have gone on to feature for the senior national team.

Players such as Dickson Job, now the assistant captain of Young Africans SC, and Nickson Kibabage, who emerged from the 2017 squad, exemplify the tournament's role in nurturing future stars.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Abel Josiah

A dynamic wide player who operates primarily on the right flank, Josiah is dangerous when cutting inside onto his stronger left foot. His two goals in the CECAFA U-17 Championship showcased his finishing ability.

Abraham Nassoro

Voted best goalkeeper at the CECAFA U-17 Championship, Nassoro's quick reflexes and commanding presence will be vital for Tanzania's defensive solidity.

Kassim Juma

A pacy and skillful dribbler, Juma has the ability to unsettle defenders and create goal-scoring opportunities, making him a key attacking threat.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

The team is managed by Aggrey Morris, a former Tanzania international defender, known for instilling tactical discipline in his players. Under his leadership, Tanzania focuses on:

Ball retention and control, ensuring they dominate possession.

Defensive organization, keeping a structured shape to limit opposition threats.

Quick counterattacks, using their wingers' pace to exploit defensive gaps.

Morris has implemented a well-structured tactical identity, ensuring his squad is both resilient and effective against higher-ranked teams.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

While progressing from the group stage will be challenging, Tanzania's primary goal remains securing their first-ever knockout stage appearance and potentially earning a place at the FIFA U-17 World Cup. With a blend of attacking flair and defensive discipline, they will look to defy expectations and make a lasting impact on the tournament. Tanzania faces a tough challenge in Group A, where they will take on:

Morocco: A technically strong team with home advantage, making them one of the tournament favorites.

Uganda (Regional Rivals) – A familiar opponent who defeated them in the CECAFA final, setting up a highly anticipated rematch.

Uganda: A fellow East African side that they will know well, Uganda have been a dominant force in the CECAFA championship in this age-group.

Zambia: A physically dominant and well-organized side, known for their strong performances at youth level.





GROUP A

ZAMBIA



Zambia enters the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations with high expectations after an impressive qualifying campaign.

The Young Chipolopolo have long been a force in Southern African youth football and will be looking to translate that regional dominance onto the continental stage.

With a squad full of attacking talent and a coach who prioritizes high-tempo football, Zambia is aiming to make history by progressing beyond the group stage for the first time and securing a FIFA U-17 World Cup berth.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Zambia secured their place at the 2025 U-17 AFCON by winning the COSAFA U-17 Championship, delivering dominant performances throughout the competition.

They capped off their campaign with a convincing victory over Angola in the final, demonstrating both attacking prowess and defensive solidity.

Their route to the title was marked by several emphatic victories, including an 8-0 demolition of Namibia and a 5-1 thrashing of Zimbabwe.

In the semi-finals, they overcame a strong South African side before clinching the title against Angola, securing their spot at the continental tournament.

Star striker Abel Nyirongo emerged as the tournament's top scorer, netting seven goals, including a hat-trick against Zimbabwe.

Gabriel Phiri and Mapalo Simute also played pivotal roles, each contributing three goals during the championship.

COMPETITION HISTORY

Zambia has had limited success at the U-17 AFCON, with only two previous appearances—in 2015 and 2023. On both occasions, they failed to progress beyond the group stage, highlighting the challenge they face at this level.

Despite their struggles on the continental stage, Zambia remains the most successful team in COSAFA U-17 history, having won the regional championship four times.

Their ability to produce top-tier talent is evident, with former Leicester City forward Patson Daka being a notable graduate of their U-17 setup.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Abel Nyirongo

A natural goal scorer, Nyirongo was the top marksman in the COSAFA U-17 Championship, scoring seven goals, including a hat-trick against Zimbabwe. His sharp finishing and ability to exploit spaces make him Zambia's most lethal attacking weapon.

Mapalo Simute

A versatile playmaker, Simute was named the MVP of the COSAFA tournament. His technical brilliance, composure under pressure, and eye for a killer pass make him crucial to Zambia's offensive setup.

Nthasilwe Malupande

A dynamic central midfielder, Malupande excels in linking defense with attack. His ability to control the tempo of the game will be vital as Zambia navigates tough group-stage battles.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

The Young Chipolopolo are led by Ian Bakala, who also managed the team in the 2023 U-17 AFCON, where they fell short in the group stage.

Bakala's philosophy is built on free-flowing attacking football, quick transitions while defensive compactness prevents exposure at the back.

Zambia's ability to dominate possession and execute rapid counterattacks will be key to their success in this tournament.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

With a squad rich in attacking depth and experience in high-pressure matches, Zambia's primary goal will be to advance beyond the group stage for the first time.

If they can harness their goal-scoring prowess while maintaining defensive discipline, the Young Chipolopolo have the potential to make a deep run and challenge for World Cup qualification. Zambia has been drawn into a competitive yet winnable Group A, where they will face:

Morocco: A technically gifted side playing on home soil, making them the toughest challenge in the group.

Uganda: A fast-improving East African team known for their structured play and strong team spirit.

Tanzania: A familiar rival down the years, bringing a similar playing style and competitive intensity.







GROUP
B

BURKINA FASO



Burkina Faso will be making their eighth appearance at the TotalEnergies CAF U17 Africa Cup of Nations. The West African side is amongst the favourites of the tournament, with five podium finishes to their name.

The former champions lifted their first title in 2011 in what was one of their best performances in the competition.

Preceding that, they finished as runners-up in the 1999 and 2001 edition where they were denied an opportunity to be crowned champions by Ghana and Nigeria respectively.

They head into the tournament with the ambition of securing what has been an elusive second TotalEnergies CAF U-17 AFCON title.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Burkina Faso had to dig deep in a tough WAFU B qualifier played at the University of Ghana. The eight-team competition which involved heavyweights Ghana, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire saw the former champions display grit and determination against some of the zonal union's best nations.

With the odds heavily stacked against them, the Young Stallions went all the way with a performance that was capped by a 3-1 win over Cote d'Ivoire in the final to secure their place in Morocco.

COMPETITION HISTORY

The West African side has been one of the regulars of the competition, with the Morocco finals marking their 8th appearance.

Not only have they been regulars, but Burkina Faso have lifted the title in 2011 and runners-up twice in 1999 and 2001, as well as bronze medallists in the 2009 and 2023 editions.

Following their WAFU B Qualifiers success, the Young Stallions have their sights firmly set continental glory.

KEY PLAYER TO WATCH

Ashraf Tapsoba

Tapsoba will be key for the Burkina Faso's ambitions. The lethal forward was key in his sides' WAFU B triumph which was capped off with a stunning brace in the final against Cote d'Ivoire. Quick and packing a powerful shot, Tapsoba will be one of the star players of Burkina Faso and possibly the competition.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Led by 53-year-old Oscar Barro, Burkina Faso possess a trait many West African nations have, which is strong physical prowess and technique.

While being physically strong, Burkina Faso are equally capable of playing with speed and great technical acumen, with flashes of brilliance from the likes of Tapsoba, who will be a point of reference in attack for the former champions will be.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

Strong title contenders in their own right, the former champions are without a doubt one of the teams to watch in Morocco.

While carrying the favourites tag, the West Africans will have a steep mountain to climb and overcome in a tough Group B consisting of Egypt, two-time champions Cameroon, as well as a highly determined South Africa.

Egypt: Yet to make their mark on the continent at this level since their 1997 success, Egypt have a strong desire and ambition to emulate their seniors who hold the record for the most African titles.

Cameroon: Two-time champions and one of the most successful nations in the tournament, Burkina Faso have a stern test against a side that is looking to reclaim its 2019 title.

South Africa: Runners-up in the 2015 edition in Niger, an exciting squad with plenty of promise looking at claiming its first African title.





GROUP B

CAMEROON



Newly crowned UNIFFAC champions, Cameroon head to Morocco with the aim of reclaiming their lost title to Senegal.

The Cameroonians completed the Group B line-up after being crowned champions of the UNIFFAC region to set themselves up for an opportunity to lift the continental crown following their 2003 and 2019 successful runs.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

The former champions hosted the UNIFFAC Qualifiers in Doula which were held in February 2025.

The four-nation tournament involved Cameroon as hosts, Central African Republic, DR Congo and Gabon where the top two finishers being Cameroon and CAR secured their place in Morocco.

Enroute to qualification, Cameroon were ruthless in front of goal. They opened the tournament with a 9-0 rout over CAR, before handing Gabon a 7-1 defeat in their second game ahead of their final match against DR Congo where they put six past DRC who had no response in a match that concluded 6-0 to Cameroon.

COMPETITION HISTORY

Cameroon are one of the most successful sides of the competition with two titles to their name along with Ghana, Gambia, Mali and Nigeria who have the equal number of titles.

The Young Lions could make history by becoming the most successful side should they go all the way at the Morocco finals.

Despite carrying the favourites tag, they will draw lessons from their 2023 participation where they failed to make it past the group stages in a tournament that highlighted the growing competitiveness of the competition.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Mafany Luma

Highest goal scorer with eight goals from the three matches in the UNIFFAC Qualifiers, Mafany Luma will certainly be eyeing the golden boot accolade against the best teams on the continent, coupled with helping his side go all the way.

Junior Abou Lopez

Not only are they sharp in goal, but Cameroon also have the luxury of an acrobatic shot stopper in Junior Abou Lopez who will be guarding the goals in Morocco. The goalkeeper kept two clean sheets in the qualifiers and walked away with the Golden Glove award.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Led by Alioum Saidou, Cameroon enjoy keeping possession of the ball with fast wingers that are troublesome for opponents.

They have a direct approach to their play with speed and quick thinking, resulting in a number of good goal scoring opportunities being created.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

Before even thinking of a third title, the former champions will have to go beyond an interesting Group B that has teams with distinctively different styles of play. Cameroon will be up against former champions Burkina Faso, Egypt as well as South Africa.

Burkina Faso: A strong contender for the title that is working towards reclaiming the title they lifted in 2011.

Egypt: Champions in the 1997 with a strong eagerness to end their continental drought.

South Africa: Runners-up in the 2015 edition in Niger, an exciting squad with plenty of promise looking at claiming its first African title.





GROUP
B

SOUTH AFRICA



Preparing to make their fifth TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations, South Africa will be hoping to emulate their 2015 performance that saw them agonisingly fall short of lifting the title with a second-place finish in Niger.

A talented squad full of promise under the tutelage of coach Vela Khumalo, Amajimbos head to the continental showpiece with a lot of expectation from their star-studded squad.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

The South Africans will form part of the trio of Southern African representatives along with Zambia and Angola.

After hosting the COSAFA Qualifiers in January, Amajimbos fell short to Angola in the semi-finals but by virtue of finishing as the third best team, the 2015 silver-medallists were fortunate to make it to the finals of the newly expanded 16-team format of the competition.

COMPETITION HISTORY

South Africa will be making their fifth TotalEnergies CAF U17 AFCON appearance this year. Their last appearance was in the 2023 edition held in Algeria where their campaign ended in the quarterfinals following a crushing 5-0 loss to eventual champions Senegal.

Preceding their 2023 appearance was a memorable run in 2015 where they narrowly fell short of being crowned champions after being edged by Mali in the finals.

Amajimbos' debut was in the 2005 edition where they finished fourth, before making a return to the two years later where they could not make it past the group stages.

KEY PLAYER TO WATCH

Emile Witbooi

One of South Africa's most promising prospects, 16-year-old Emile Witbooi is a rising star made history on 2 March 2026 by becoming the youngest player to play for the Cape Town City FC in South Africa's premier division.

A skilful attacker with incredible ball control at high speed, the dribbling wizard also caught the attention of English premier league giants, Chelsea FC who invited the youngster for assessments.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

South Africa will be led by coach Vela Khumalo who is also head coach of the Kaizer Chiefs youth team in South Africa.

A coach with vast experience in coaching youth football, Khumalo has also been assistant to former South African U20 coach, Molefi Ntseki before assuming his role as head coach of the U17 team that finished in the quarter-finals of the last edition in Algeria.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

South Africa find themselves in a testing Group B which coach Khumalo has described as "intriguing". They face Burkina Faso, Egypt as well as two-time champions, Cameroon.

While drawn in one of the toughest groups of the competition, the South Africans with their flair and talent have what it takes but will need to be highly discipline and tactical against their Group B counterparts who are equally capable of advancing.

Burkina Faso:

A strong contender for the title that is working towards reclaiming the title they lifted in 2011.

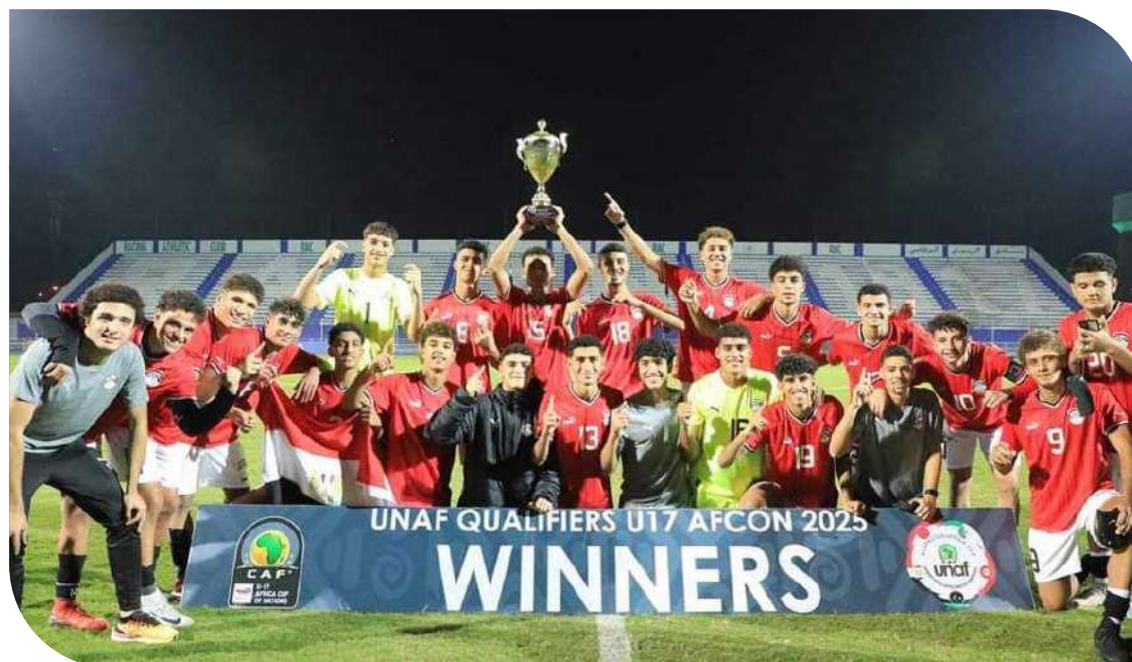
Egypt: Yet to make their mark on the continent at this level of continental football since lifting the title in 1997, Egypt have a strong desire and ambition to emulate their seniors who hold the record for the most African titles.

Cameroon: Two-time champions and one of the most successful nations in the tournament, South Africa have a stern test against a side that is looking to reclaim its 2019 title.





GROUP B



Egypt head to the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations with clear intent of ending what has been a 28-year wait to enjoy continental silverware.

The North African side will only be making their fourth TotalEnergies CAF U-17 AFCON finals appearance, with their success in the competition dating as far back as 1997 when they won it in a slender 1-0 win over Mali.

Since then, the Egyptians have fallen short of continental success with the closest attempt being a fourth-place finish in the 2003 edition played in Eswatini.

Despite only having one title to their name in the competition, the young Egyptians head to Morocco as one of the teams to watch.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Egypt's qualification to the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations came as a result of them winning the UNAF Qualifiers played in Algiers, Algeria last year.

The round-robin tournament which included hosts Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia saw the Egyptians finish first to officially be crowned champions of the North African region and secure their fourth ticket to the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 AFCON.

COMPETITION HISTORY

The Egyptians are yet to rubber stamp their authority at this level on the continent. After their impressive 1997 showing that concluded with them bring crowned champions, the side is yet to emulate their success to this date.

Egypt finished fourth in the 2003 edition which was their last podium finish before the 2011 showing that saw them bow out in the group stages.

KEY PLAYER TO WATCH

Hamza Mohamed Abdel Karim

Abdel Karim will be key for the Egyptians in their quest to lift a second continental title. The dangerous forward who is on the books of Egyptian giants Al Ahly's youth division is eager to make a mark for himself at the highest level and will be a focal point for the Egyptian attack. The forward also walked away with the Golden Boot award at the UNAF qualifiers.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Just like their senior counterparts, Egypt have a very quick and highly technical style of play that is very difficult to contain.

They will be led by coach Ahmed El-Kass, former Egyptian national team player who represented the Pharaohs between 1987 – 1997, scoring 25 goals in national team colours. Coach Ahmed El-Kass' victory in the UNAF qualifiers came as a disciplined defense that remains resolute under immense pressure.

The side also has the ability of attacking from the middle, affording them various options of attack going forward.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

With two former champions in Burkina Faso and Cameroon along with a spirited South African side, the Young Pharaohs will have to be at their very best to make it out of a tough Group B.

Burkina Faso: A strong contender for the title that is working towards reclaiming the title they lifted in 2011.

Cameroon: Two-time champions and one of the most successful nations in the tournament, Cameroon are aiming for a record third title to make them the most successful nation in this age category.

South Africa: Runners-up in the 2015 edition in Niger, they finished third in their qualifiers and aiming to go all the way in this year's edition.







GROUP
C

SENEGAL



Reigning African U-17 champions, Senegal approach the 2025 edition of the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations with the same determination as when they were crowned. Ibrahima Sory Sow is the only survivor of this epic, but coach Pape Ibrahima Faye remains open to all options, hinting at a potentially surprising team in Morocco.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Last November, the Lion Cubs of Teranga booked their ticket to the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations by winning the UFOA A tournament after a thrilling final against Mali (3-3, 5 penalties 4). This match, played in an electric atmosphere, kept all its promises with a scenario rich in twists and turns.

This success testifies to the constant progress of Senegalese football among young people, confirming the quality of the training work undertaken in recent years. By winning this tournament, the Cubs sent a strong message to their future rivals, affirming their ambition to shine on the continental stage.

COMPETITION HISTORY

Senegal made history by winning their first title at the U-17 Africa Cup of Nations in 2023, confirming the rise of their team. Led by their captain Amara Diouf, the Lion Cubs of Teranga displayed impressive control throughout the competition.

Solid in defence and formidable in attack, they outclassed their opponents in the group stage before raising their level in the decisive matches. In the final, against Morocco, they showed character to turn the situation around and win 2-1.

Amara Diouf, a true conductor, shone with his talent, vivacity and efficiency, finishing as the tournament's top scorer with 5 goals.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Ibrahima Sory Sow

With great intelligence of the game, he excels in recovering the ball and distribution, bringing balance and fluidity to the midfield. His vision and ability to break the lines make him a key element of the Senegalese system. A tireless worker, he also stands out for his defensive commitment and his reading of the game.

Sidi Barham Ndiaye

With impressive speed and refined technique, Sidi Barham Ndiaye knows how to destabilize defenses perfectly thanks to his hard-hitting dribbling and his sense of positioning. His goalscoring instinct and ability to finish off actions make him a valuable asset to his team.

Baytir Fall

His physical power combined with great mobility allows him to stand out in duels and to be actively involved in the offensive game. Thanks to his ability to make quick decisions and his determination, Fall knows how to make himself dangerous in front of goal, while being an excellent worker behind the scenes. His intelligence of the game and his versatility make him a player capable of adapting to different situations. With his potential, he is destined to evolve to higher levels of African football.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Former U-15 coach Pape Ibrahima Faye has taken over from Serigné Saliou Dia, who was recently appointed head coach of the U-20s. This transition in the technical staff has not affected the group's ambitions, quite the contrary.

Under Faye's leadership, the Lion Cubs of Teranga shone in the UFOA A tournament, winning another championship title. This success testifies to the solidity of the team, but also to the vision of the coach, who has been able to maintain cohesion and tactical discipline despite the change at the head of the team.

With this new title and a team that seems more and more ready to take on the challenges, the "PIF" version of Senegal seems more armed than ever to aim for the continental title.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

The goal of the Teranga Cubs is to defend their title and retain their status as African champions at the FIFA U-17 World Cup. However, the task will not be easy, as Senegal will play in a very competitive Group C, alongside:

Gambia: Two-time African champions in 2005 and 2009, The Gambia returns to this competition with solid arguments and experienced players who are sure to test Senegal's ambitions.

Somalia: After a successful first appearance at the last edition, the Ocean Stars have high ambitions and are determined to turn the expectations placed on them into performances on the pitch.

Tunisia: An athletic and explosive team, whose dynamic play will test the defensive solidity of the Lion Cubs and offer a major challenge for the young Senegalese.

This tough group promises many exciting confrontations, and the Lion Cubs will have to show all their talent and determination to come out of these matches unscathed.



GROUP
C



The Gambia aspires to regain the glory of their previous victories. Two-time African U-17 champions in 2005 and 2009, the Young Scorpions return to the 2025 edition of the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations with the ambition of reliving moments of success.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Third in the UFOA A U-17 tournament, The Gambia took advantage of the expansion of the number of participating teams to qualify.

COMPETITION HISTORY

The 2000s were a golden period for the Young Scorpions, with outstanding performances on the continental scene. In 2005, thanks to talented players such as Sanna Nyassi and Ousman Jallow, Gambia won its first continental title by winning the U-17 Africa Cup of Nations.

This historic success marks a turning point for the country, which is establishing itself as a rising force in African football. In 2009, the team led by Ebrima Bojang repeated the feat, winning its second continental title, thus confirming its place among the great nations of youth football.

These victories have left an important legacy, inspiring many generations of young Gambian footballers and strengthening the Young Scorpions' reputation on the continent.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Francis Gomez

Known for his speed, technique and sense of goal, the Gambian has an excellent vision of the game. He knows how to position himself at the right time to receive the ball and create scoring chances. His ability to dribble past defenders and make quick decisions on the field make him a true offensive asset to his team. Despite his youth, Gomez has already shown great maturity and a strong mentality, characteristics that allow him to shine in high-level competitions.

Alagie Baba Leigh

He is a dynamic and technical striker for the Gambia U-17 national team. His ability to get involved in the attacking game and to stand out in the box makes him a real danger for opposing defences. Blessed with impressive speed and agility, he is able to break through the defensive lines with his quick dribbling and intelligent movement. His goalscoring instinct and precision in finishing make him a valuable asset to his team. With a strong personality on the pitch and a hard-working mentality, Leigh is a player that Gambia can rely on to seek further success on the continental stage.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Yahya Manneh was appointed coach of the Gambia U-17 team with the mission of restoring splendour to a category that has already made history by winning two continental titles in 2005 and 2009.

With extensive experience in the field, Manneh has distinguished himself by his technical skills and his ability to manage young talent. His tactical approach is based on a combination of offensive aggressiveness and defensive discipline, seeking to provide his players with an essential balance between creativity and rigor. He places great importance on team cohesion and group spirit, making unity one of his priorities in his project.

Under his leadership, The Gambia intends to return to its great hours and aim for consecration on the continent. His passion and vision for the development of young talent allows him to make the most of his players' strengths, while creating a dynamic team capable of competing with the best African nations.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

Gambia have been placed in Group C, where they will face a familiar opponent and two teams they are less familiar with.

Senegal: A tough group that promises intense matches and fierce competition to qualify for the next phase. Neighbours Senegal, the reigning African champions, represent a formidable team with an impressive recent history in U-17 competitions.

Tunisia: A less familiar opponent for Gambia, but returning to the competition after a long absence, with a promising team that could well surprise.

Somalia: A team on the rise, which is participating for the second time in the U-17 AFCON, and which intends to prove its worth against the other nations in the group.

GAMBIA



GROUP
C

SOMALIA



The Ocean Stars are back! Somalia are on the rise and enter the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations with the desire to surpass their performance in the last edition, when they did not make it past the group stage.

With a largely renewed squad, the Ocean Stars are counting on the experience gained from their previous campaign to challenge the big teams in the category and nurture greater ambitions.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Third in the CECAFA U-17 tournament, Somalia took advantage of the expansion of the number of participating countries to earn their spot as draftees. After a semi-final defeat against Uganda, the eventual winner of the CECAFA U-17 (4-1), the Somalis won the bronze medal by beating South Sudan (2-2, 4-2 penalty), thus giving themselves the opportunity to participate in the 2025 CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations.

COMPETITION HISTORY

For the second time in a row, Somalia is participating in the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations. In their first appearance in this competition, the Ocean Stars finished in fourth place in Group A, with just one point.

The young Dinii had made history by becoming the first Somali scorer at a U-17 AFCON, scoring a goal against Congo (1-1).

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Farhan Isaq

His intelligence of the game and his vision of the field allow him to dictate the pace of the game and distribute assists. With a refined technique and an ability to recover balls, he plays a key role in the balance of his team.

His maturity and ability to make decisions under pressure make him a valuable asset in midfield. Isaq also stands out for his stamina and defensive work, bringing stability and creativity to his team.

Sakariye Maxamuud

His sense of positioning and clinical finishing make him a formidable goalscorer, capable of scoring at any time. Maxamuud also combines great mobility with a dribbling technique that allows him to destabilize opposing defenders. In addition to his attacking qualities, he knows how to be altruistic, sometimes offering assists to his teammates.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Known for his strategic vision and a well-defined tactical approach, Nuur Maxamed main objective is to build a solid, disciplined team capable of competing with the great nations of African football. It emphasizes fluid collective play, combining a robust defence and a creative midfield to support the forwards.

Maxamed favours a balanced style of play, where possession of the ball is key, while ensuring that his team can quickly go on the attack when the opportunity arises. He also values agility and mobility, encouraging his players to move without the ball, take initiative and be constantly on the move. On the defensive side, he insists on the importance of organisation and solidarity, with each player responsible for covering his teammates and remaining compact.

With his tactical vision, the Somali seeks to make the most of his players' talents, while preparing them to face the challenges of the continental scene. Its approach emphasizes continuous improvement and adversarial adaptation, aimed at strengthening Somalia's competitiveness on the international stage.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

For its second participation in the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 AFCON, Somalia is playing in a very competitive Group C.

Senegal: Reigning African U-17 champions, Senegal are aiming to retain their title and assert their supremacy in this category.

Gambia: The Young Scorpions are looking to prove to Africa that they have undeniable assets.

Tunisia: The Tunisian team, with its athletic potential and explosive play, is determined to measure itself against the big nations and to assert its qualities on the continental stage.



GROUP
C

TUNISIA



Since 2013, Tunisia had not taken part in a TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations. Twelve long years of waiting that are finally coming to an end.

This qualification marks the return of a promising generation, ready to make a name for itself on the continental scene.

Under the leadership of Mohamed Amine Naffati, Tunisia has been able to develop a coherent and dynamic game.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Finishing in third place in the UNAF zone qualifiers in November 2024 in Casablanca, behind Morocco and Egypt, the Tunisia U-17 team failed to qualify directly for the final phase of the U-17 AFCON 2025.

However, thanks to the expansion of the number of participating teams, the Aiglons were drafted and thus earned their place in the competition.

COMPETITION HISTORY

The only achievement of the Tunisians in this category remains their bronze medal obtained in 2013. Firas Ben Larbi was part of this historic team, making his mark with remarkable performances.

After this success, Tunisia went through a long period without major success in this competition.

However, with a rising generation and the contribution of young talents determined to write a new chapter for Tunisian football, the Aiglons have new ambitions.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Anisse Saidi

Anisse Saidi is a promising striker and a key attacking asset for the Tunisia U-17 team. With a combination of speed, technique and game intelligence, he quickly stood out as one of the main drivers of the Tunisian attack. Saidi has an excellent ability to position himself in the right place at the right time, which allows him to create scoring chances and convert his teammates' assists.

Aziz Chaabene

Aziz Chaabene is a talented striker and a real offensive threat for the Tunisia U-17 team. With his impressive speed and ability to stand out from defenders, he is a real asset in attacking transitions. Chaabene stands out for his intelligent play and his natural goalscoring instinct, often in the right place at the right time to exploit the spaces left by opposing defenders.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Mohamed Amine Naffati embodies a modern and thoughtful tactical approach, emphasizing discipline, solidarity and balance between the defensive and offensive phases. His style of play is based on a robust defensive organisation, where the emphasis is on close coverage and quick ball recovery. Naffati ensures that his players are always ready to reposition, ensuring a solid defensive foundation before going on the attack.

Offensively, he advocates a quick transition game, aiming to exploit the spaces left by the opponents. Tunisia's system of play is designed to be flexible, with a midfield capable of controlling tempo and distributing play with precision. Players are encouraged to take creative initiatives, while respecting the collective principles of play. Forwards, on the other hand, are invited to be mobile and to reposition themselves quickly to surprise opposing defences.

Naffati also emphasizes mental preparation and the importance of group cohesion. It creates an environment where each player understands their role within the overall system, while promoting individual growth. In short, Naffati's vision is clear: to build a young, dynamic and competitive team, capable of competing with the best African nations, combining tactical rigour and creative freedom on the pitch.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

A group where each team will have arguments to make, and where Tunisia will have to show resilience and strategy to make their way to the finals. For its return to the competition, Tunisia finds itself in a particularly tough Group C.

Senegal: Reigning African champions, Senegal arrive with the ambition to defend their title and assert their dominance in this U-17 category. With a talented and experienced team, the Lion Cubs of Teranga are serious contenders for victory.

Gambia: The Gambia's Young Scorpions are looking to reaffirm their status as a great African football nation in this category where they were crowned twice in 2005 and 2009. With several titles in their pocket and a close-knit group, they are counting on their experience and collective play to disrupt their opponents and aim for the final phases.

Somalia: After proving themselves in the last edition, Somalia hopes to take another step forward this time. Although less experienced than their opponents, the Ocean Stars team will highlight their fighting spirit and their desire to challenge the great nations of African football.





GROUP
D

MALI



Mali has been one of the most consistent teams in the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations. This Eagles will honour their 10th participation in the competition, with the ambition to lift a third title in the tournament following their successes in 2015 and 2017.

In 9 appearances, Mali has reached the semi-finals 7 times, with only two early exits (2005 and 2011). They were runners-up in 1997, third in 1999 and 2001, and fourth in 1995 and 2023.

A true breeding ground for young talent, Mali has become a reference on the continent for youth football development and enters every edition as one of the favourites. This time, they will certainly be even more determined, aiming to avoid the flaws that have often led them to fall short of the ultimate prize.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Mali secured their spot by finishing second in the WAFU A Zonal qualifiers. The Eagles, after an impressive run in the tournament held in Senegal, lost in the final to the host country after a penalty shootout. Senegal, the reigning African champions, thus avenged their loss to Mali, who had denied them the title in 2023 in Mauritania.

After a flawless run in Group A where they beat Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau 1-0 and cruised past Mauritania by 4-0, Mali won 3-2 against Gambia in the semifinals before stumbling in the final in a thrilling match.

COMPETITION HISTORY

The two-time champions are a regular in the competition with 10 appearances to their name.

Winners in 2015 and 2017, the Eagles have always played key roles in the tournament, as evidenced by their seven semifinal appearances in 9 participations. They were fourth in their first appearance in 1995, reached the final in 1997, and finished third in 1999 and 2001.

2005 and 2011 are the only editions where they were eliminated in the first round.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Seydou Dembele

At just 16, he is already seen as the rising star of Mali. A product of the prestigious Jean-Marc Guillou Academy in Bamako, the midfielder nicknamed "Messi" by his teammates, dazzled in the qualifiers where he was deservedly named the best player.

Bakary Simpara

Simpara is the lethal weapon of the Malian attack. Born in 2008, he has a true goal-scoring instinct, having won the golden boot in the WAFU-A tournament with five goals. Alongside the young FC Guidars player, Adama Diéfla Diallo, the U-17 Eagles' coach has a strong attacking duo.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Appointed head coach of the Mali U-17 team in January 2024, replacing Soumaila Coulibaly, Adama Diéfla Diallo (38 years old) will lead the Eagles to Morocco.

A key figure in Malian football development, Diallo who has built a reputation over the years and is known for his tactical approach that is focused on technique and possession, staying true to Mali's tradition of producing skilled and technically gifted players.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

As the reigning champions, Mali naturally enters the tournament as one of the favourites.

However, they will still face a tough challenge to advance from what promises to be a difficult group stage.

Côte d'Ivoire: Côte d'Ivoire represents a serious challenge for Mali. Runners-up in the WAFU-B zone, the Young Elephants are also determined to claim the trophy that has eluded them since 2013.

Angola: Angola is also among the teams to watch in Morocco. Their squad is full of both technical and hardworking players. Their best performance in the tournament came in 2019 when they finished third. Even though they are not the favourites in Group D, Angola has the potential to create surprises.

Central African Republic: The debutants will be full of ambition. In the recent UNIFFAC tournament, they showed tremendous character, which will be crucial when facing any team in the competition.





GROUP
D

ANGOLA



Angola returns to the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations after missing the 2023 edition in Algeria.

The country, which made its debut in the competition in 1997 will be making its fifth appearance in the tournament. Their best performance came in the 2019 edition in Tanzania, where they finished in third place.

HOW ANGOLA QUALIFIED

Angola secured its qualification by reaching the final of the COSAFA qualifiers held in Johannesburg, South Africa in December 2024. After an impressive run, the country lost 2-1 to Zambia in the final but secured one of the three available along with Zambia and South Africa.

COMPETITION HISTORY

Angola is preparing for its fifth appearance in the competition. Their first participation was in 1997, where they were eliminated in the group stage.

They failed to do better in their subsequent participations in 1999 and 2017. It wasn't until the 2019 edition in Tanzania that Angola managed to progress past the group stage for the first time, finishing in third place.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Eliseu Sebastião Francisco

With two goals, Eliseu finished as Angola's top scorer in the COSAFA qualifiers. The 16-year-old midfielder is creative and also clinical in front of goal.

Gelson Joaquim Dala

Angola's goalkeeper, Gelson shone brightly during the COSAFA qualifiers in Johannesburg, earning the title of best goalkeeper of the competition. The 15-year-old has all the required qualities for his position: great positioning, reflexes, and strong distribution.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Mito da Silva replaced Pedro Gonçalves, the current head coach of the senior Angola team, as the head coach of the U-17 team. In qualifying Angola for this continental event, he successfully completed one of his first major missions with the team.

True to the tradition of Angola's youth teams, Mito da Silva prefers to see his team develop plays and lead structured attacks. However, he is also brilliant at organizing the defense and exploiting counter-attacks when the team is under pressure.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

Angola finds itself in Group D, alongside two former winners of the tournament: Mali (2015, 2017) and Côte d'Ivoire (2013), as well as the Central African Republic. Securing a spot in the knockout stages will not be easy for this team, but they are known for their resilience.

Mali: In their two previous encounters in the competition, Angola has lost to Mali. They were defeated 2-1 in the 1999 group stage and suffered a heavy 6-1 loss in 2017 in Gabon at the same stage of the competition.

Central African Republic: Despite being newcomers to the competition, Central African Republic bring a lot of ambition. In the recent UNIFFAC tournament, the Central African U-17 team showed great character, which will be helpful against any opponent in the competition.

Côte d'Ivoire: The Ivorian U-17 team is considered the second strongest team in Group D, behind Mali. To progress to the knockout stages, Angola will need at least one favourable result against either of these two giants.





GROUP
D

CÔTE D'IVOIRE



After missing three consecutive editions, Côte d'Ivoire is making a grand return to the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations. The last time the Young Elephants participated was in 2015, where they were eliminated in the first round.

The West African nation, which won the competition in 2013 is preparing for its 6th participation in the youth competition. Coach Bassiriki Diabaté and his team are aiming for a successful return to this competition, which will take place between 30 March - 29 April 19 in Morocco.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Côte d'Ivoire qualified by finishing second in the WAFU B Zonal qualifiers held in May 2024 in Ghana. After an impressive run, the Young Elephants lost in the final to Burkina Faso, who won 3-1 at the University of Ghana Stadium.

In Group A, alongside Ghana and Benin, the Ivorians had a tough start to the competition, suffering a humiliating 5-1 defeat to Ghana. However, their 1-0 victory on match day two of the competition against Benin opened a door to the semi-finals, where they defeated Nigeria 1-0, thanks to a goal from Youbah Coulibaly.

COMPETITION HISTORY

Côte d'Ivoire is preparing for its sixth participation in the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations. Their first appearance was in 1997, where they had a difficult learning experience, being eliminated in the first round. After missing the next three editions, they returned in 2005 to finish in third place. Missing out again in 2007 and 2009, the Ivorian U-17 team came back in 2011, finishing fourth, before winning their only title in the tournament in 2013 in Morocco.

Since the 2015 edition, where they failed to progress past the group stages, Côte d'Ivoire has not appeared in the competition.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Youbah Coulibaly

His goal against Nigeria in the semifinals of the qualifiers was crucial for Côte d'Ivoire's qualification. His significant presence up front earned him the Man of the Match award. The 16-year-old AFAD striker possesses great technical and athletic qualities, along with a goal-scoring instinct that makes him a valuable asset in Coach Bassiriki Diabaté's plans.

Adama Diabaté

His goal against Benin (1-0) on day two of the qualifiers saved Côte d'Ivoire from elimination after their heavy 5-1 defeat to Ghana. Diabaté also assisted Youbah Coulibaly's goal in the semifinal against Nigeria. A true midfield metronome, the ASFA player elevates the Ivorian game with his brilliant playmaking, passing ability, and clinical finishing.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Bassiriki Diabaté has been in charge of the Côte d'Ivoire U-17 team since October 2022. He successfully guided the team to the Morocco finals, marking a major milestone in his tenure. The former Racing Club d'Abidjan coach (51-years-old) was named Ivorian Coach of the Year for the 2019-2020 season. He is a proponent of attractive, fluid football, emphasizing collective organization where each player understands their role, both in attack and defense.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

Côte d'Ivoire is in Group D, alongside Mali, Angola, and the Central African Republic. Their first challenge will be to get out of this tricky group.

Mali: On paper, Mali is undoubtedly the strongest opponent for Côte d'Ivoire in Group D. The two teams have each won one of their previous encounters in this competition: Mali won 1-0 in 2015, avenging their 2011 2-1 loss to the Young Elephants.

Angola: Angola is also one of the teams to watch in Morocco. Their squad is filled with technical and hardworking players. Their best performance in the tournament came in 2019 when they finished in third place. Although not the favourites in Group D, Angola has the potential to spring a surprise.

Central African Republic: Despite being debutants in the competition, Central African Republic are full of ambition. During the recent UNIFFAC tournament, the team demonstrated great resilience, which will serve them well against any opponent in the competition.





GROUP
D

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



The Central African Republic will make its debut in the TotalEnergies CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations this year in Morocco.

The team aims to leave its mark on this competition despite being newcomers.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

The Fauves U-17 secured their qualification after an impressive run in the UNIFFAC Zonal qualifiers held in Douala, Cameroon in February this year.

The team finished second in the tournament, behind host country Cameroon, but ahead of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Gabon.

Despite a catastrophic start with a heavy 9-0 loss to Cameroon, the team showed remarkable mental resilience. They won their next two matches: 3-2 against DRC and 1-0 against Gabon, ensuring their qualification for the final phase of the competition.

COMPETITION HISTORY

Central African Republic is on debut.

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Lucres Betouloum Bonai

Lucres is the engine of the Central African Republic midfield. The DFC8 player, born in 2008, was a key figure in his team's qualification. With great technical skills and an exceptional vision of the game, Lucres is the player on whom coach Dertin Boulengue's strategy largely depends on.

Anan Jefferson Otto

Another important player in midfield, Anan Jefferson OTTO, born in 2009 was pivotal in the UNIFFAC tournament, especially with a double in the 3-2 win against DRC. This performance allowed the Central African Republic to bounce back after the heavy loss to Cameroon.

COACH AND TACTICAL APPROACH

Coach Dertin Boulengue proved in the UNIFFAC tournament that he is a talented coach. His philosophy is primarily based on ball possession. He prioritizes structured attacks and insists that his players avoid playing long balls recklessly. However, when facing stronger opponents, he may opt for quick transitions, accepting a certain amount of pressure before countering effectively.

TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS & GROUP ANALYSIS

The Central African Republic is seen as the main outsider in Group D, where they will face giants like Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, and Angola.

Although this team is relatively new to the competition, they are not lacking in ambition and are preparing for the big challenges ahead.

Mali: Mali, with its impressive experience will be one of the toughest opponents for the Central African Republic. However, the Central African Republic team is ready to do everything they can to pull off an upset against this powerhouse.

















Côte d'Ivoire: The Ivorian team, though absent in recent years, remains one of the favourites in Group D. CAR will need to put forth its full strength to compete with a team like Côte d'Ivoire.

Angola: Angola is also a solid team that has shown promising qualities in the past. The Fauves will have their chance to create a surprise against Angola.

Although the Central African Republic is not the most experienced team in this group, their impressive qualification run shows that they are ready to achieve great things in this tournament.



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FAMILIARISATION PROGRAM				
Group	Team	Date	Time	Stadium
Group A	Morocco	29.03.2025	22h00-22h30	Bashir - Mohammedia
	Uganda	29.03.2025	21h00-21h30	
	Tanzania	29.03.2025	15h00-15h30	
	Zambia	29.03.2025	16h00-16h30	
Group B	Burkina Faso	30.03.2025	16h00-16h30	Laarbi Zaouli-Casablanca
	Cameroon	30.03.2025	17h00-17h30	
	South Africa	30.03.2025	19h00-19h30	
	Egypt	30.03.2025	20h00-20h30	
Group C	Senegal	31.03.2025	14h00-14h30	El Abdi-El Jadida
	Gambia	31.03.2025	15h00-15h30	
	Somalia	31.03.2025	16h00-16h30	
	Tunisia	31.03.2025	17h00-17h30	
Group D	Mali	31.03.2025	16h00-16h30	Berrechid-Casablanca
	Angola	31.03.2025	17h00-17h30	
	Cote D'Ivoire	31.03.2025	19h00-19h30	
	Central Africa	31.03.2025	20h00-20h30	

RULES & REGULATIONS

AGE RANGE

Only players born within the following age limit are eligible to:

Upper age limit: all players must be a maximum of 17 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the final competition is played (i.e. all players of the teams were born on or after 1 January 2008).

Lower age limit: all players must be at least 15 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the final competition is played (i.e., all players of the teams were born on or before 31 December 2010).

AGE ELIGIBILITY TESTS

The participating teams may be subjected to MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) tests, to be conducted at the earliest five (5) days before the start of the competition. CAF reserves the right to conduct an MRI Test at any time before or during the competition.

If after performing the eligibility test (MRI) for a participating team and four (4) or more of its players are found ineligible, the participating team will be disqualified.

If after performing an MRI test for a participating team and one (1), two (2) or three (3) of its players are found ineligible, the said player(s) will not be allowed to participate in the competition. The concerned team will be allowed to participate in the competition but is not authorized to replace the ineligible player(s).

If after performing the age eligibility test (MRI) for a participating team and one player was found none eligible, the participating team will be disqualified.

GROUP STANDINGS

In case of two teams having equal points at the end of the group matches, the teams will be ranked according to the following criteria in the order listed below:

- The highest number of points obtained in the match between the two concerned teams;
- The goal difference in all group matches;
- The highest number of goals scored in the whole group matches;
- A drawing of lots conducted by the Organising Committee.

In case of equality between more than two teams at the end of the group matches, the teams will be ranked according to the following criteria in the order listed below:

- The greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the
- The best goal difference in the matches between the concerned teams;
- The greatest number of goals scored in the matches between the concerned teams.

If after applying the criteria (a) to (c), two teams are still equal, the same criteria are again applied to matches played between the two teams in question to determine the final ranking of the two teams.

If this procedure does not allow classifying them, the criteria listed from (d) to (f) are applied in the indicated order:

- The goals difference in all group matches;
- The highest number of goals scored in all group matches;
- A drawing of lots conducted by the Organising Committee.

2025 FIFA UNDER-17 WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION

The eight quarter-finalists will qualify for the 2025 FIFA Under-17 World Cup. Play off matches will be played among the teams ranked third in the groups to determine the two remaining teams that will qualify, as follows:

Third Group A vs Third Group C
Third Group B vs Third Group D

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

If a player receives two bookings in two different matches, he will be automatically suspended for his team's next match.

A player who is sent off (either with a direct or indirect red card) will be automatically suspended for his team's next match without prejudice to any other sanctions that may be imposed on him (suspensions, fines, etc.).

At the end of the first phase of the final tournament (group stage), all single yellow cards received will be cancelled for the remainder of the competition. However, a player who has received two yellow cards will receive a one-match suspension.





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