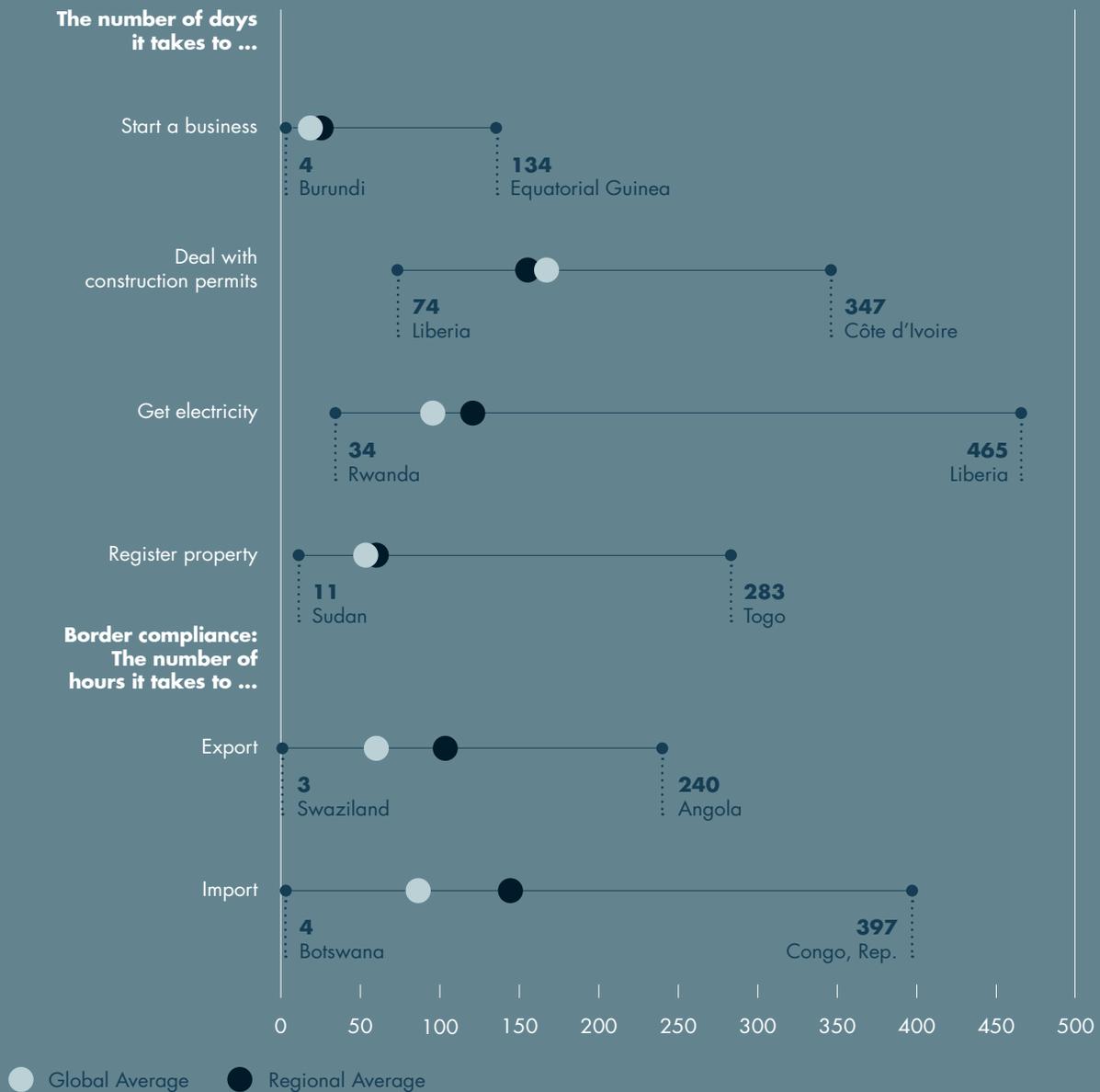


FIGURE 2.5.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN SMES AND THE BOTTLENECK OF TIME

The 2017 *Doing Business* report, which publishes annual data on regulatory constraints for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), notes that sub-Saharan African economies are improving their scores at a rate three times that of OECD high-income economies. Despite this achievement, though, running a business in the region is still quite difficult, as it requires going over multiple hurdles to even get the business started. Time is a particular bottleneck, as it takes extensive time to even start a business let alone obtain permits and electricity. Wait times at borders also allow agricultural exports to spoil. Eliminating many of these obstacles could promote the growth of SMEs—the major employers in sub-Saharan Africa—opening them up to even more job-creating opportunities.



Source: World Bank's *Doing Business 2017 Report for Sub-Saharan Africa*. Available at: http://www.doingbusiness.org/reports/~/_media/WBG/DoingBusiness/Documents/Profiles/Regional/DB2017/SSA.pdf. *Doing Business* data. Available at: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data>.