

MEMORANDUM

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The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.

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KEY PLAYERS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD COME TOGETHER FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS

The European Development Days is a two day event in Brussels on 15-16 June to generate new ideas, take action and shape the future with world leaders, young leaders and hundreds of speakers, civil society organisations and international organisations.

Tomorrow the ["European Development Days 2016"](#) (EDDs) will officially open its doors to a record number of over 6,000 development professionals from around 150 countries who will attend what has become Europe's leading forum on global development and cooperation.

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, said: *"The 10th anniversary of the European Development Days is focused on results: turning the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals from commitments into actions. This is Europe's open invitation to the world to reflect with us how our policies, partnerships and resources can best be put into use to support global development, eradicate poverty once and for all, and shift our planet onto a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous path"*.

This edition is of particular importance, since it marks 10 years of European Development Days. Often referred to as the "Davos for Development", the EDDs comes at a crucial time for the future of international development, shortly after the ["Agenda for Sustainable Development"](#), which is a universal framework to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030, was adopted in September 2015.

The European Development Days will focus on implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, building upon 5 vital "P"s for sustainable development: **Partnership, Peace, Prosperity, Planet and People**.

Ahead of the event, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude **Juncker**, will meet the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, to sign a joint declaration "Towards an EU-Ethiopia Strategic Engagement", which reflects the EU's strong relations with Ethiopia, emphasising Ethiopia's crucial role in Africa and the international community and its significant socio-economic development. The EU and Ethiopia will thereby elevate their 40 year partnership to an even more strategic level.

Another key moment ahead of the EDDs will be the adoption of a Joint Declaration by Jim Yong Kim, the President of the World Bank and the European Commission, represented by the Vice-President of the European Commission, Kristalina **Georgieva** and Commissioner **Mimica**, on 14 June. This declaration represents a joint commitment to strengthening action in sustaining peace and increasing the impact in situations affected by fragility, conflict and violence.

Background

The European Development Days has become known as the flagship event for international development cooperation in the EU. Over the past 9 years, the "Davos for Development", as it is often referred to, has brought together an impressive 2670 speakers and as many as 100 World Leaders, 514 exhibitors and 42,000 participants from 154 countries, as well as 4,500 organisations.

This year the EDDs will promote youth as the driving force behind global development efforts and highlights the importance of engaging young people on the path to sustainability. By inviting young people aged 21 to 26 from around the world to join the debate on the future of international development cooperation, the European Commission aims to involve them in shaping future development policies. 16 Young Leaders have been invited from partner countries to bring fresh thinking to the debates about development policy and international cooperation.

The European Commission delegation will consist of the High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy / Vice-President Federica **Mogherini**, Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Jyrki **Katainen**, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market, Andrus **Ansip**, Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia **Malmström**, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias **Cañete**, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu **Vella**, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos **Stylianides**.

The European Development Days 2016 will draw over 500 speakers and prominent decision makers, including representatives of international organisations such as Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary-General, Jim Yong Kim, the President of the World Bank Group, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women and numerous Heads of State, including Uhuru Kenyatta, President

and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, Bibi Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, President of the Central African Republic, Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Rui Maria de Araújo, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, along with many others.

The EDDs will take place at the same time as the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), now in its 11th edition. Three winners will be revealed by Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy Miguel Arias **Cañete**, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Jerzy Buzek, Mayor of Florence, Dario Nardella, and by the Director General of the European Consumer Organisation, Monique Goyens, during the Award Ceremony on 14 June at the EUSEW Policy Conference. (EC 14-06-2016)

CHINA PARDONS PART OF MOZAMBIQUE'S DEBT

China will pardon 30 million yuan (about US\$5 million) in bilateral debt owed by Mozambique, said Monday in Maputo the Chinese Deputy Trade Minister Zhang Xiangchen.

The announcement was made after Zhang signed a document to that effect which was signed by Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, Maria Isaltina Lucas, on behalf of Mozambique.

The deputy minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Nyeleti Mondlane, present at the signing ceremony, said China's decision will help reduce pressure on servicing public debt in Mozambique.

"The decision to partially pardon interest-free debt will minimise the pressure on servicing public debt in Mozambique and contribute to the materialisation of the objectives in the government's five-year plan," Mondlane said, quoted by Mozambican news agency AIM.

In addition to this agreement, the two countries also signed another, under which China will finance the construction of 200 water wells in Mozambique and a third agreement in the agricultural sector. (14-06-2016)

CAR OFFICIALLY RESUMES DIAMOND EXPORT

By exporting a stock of 3,703 carats of diamonds, the Central African Republic (CAR) marks the official resumption of the precious stone trade, a year after the partial lifting of the embargo.

These diamonds come from the area of the Mambere-Kadei, located in the west of CAR at about 400 km from capital Bangui.

This first shipment of 3,703 carats against an annual average of about 300,000 carats before the crisis occurs after a series of verifications by government services.

The decision of the partial lifting of the embargo was made last June 26, 2015 at the closing of a meeting of the Kimberley Process in Luanda, Angola.

CAR was allowed to export its diamonds coming from the western and southwestern regions.

The Ministry of Mines had also decided to export rough diamonds from Berberati, the main city of the prefecture of Mambere Kadei to Bangui, where they should be subject to a control prior to their sale on the world market.

The Central African Republic was suspended from the Kimberley Process in April 2013, after the Seleka rebels' coup against the regime of President Bozize. The country's rebel movement was then accused of using diamonds resources fuel the war. (APA 12-06-2016)

L'UNION EUROPÉENNE ADOPTE DE NOUVELLES ACTIONS EN AFRIQUE EN FAVEUR DE LA STABILITÉ ET DE LA LUTTE CONTRE LES CAUSES PROFONDES DE LA MIGRATION IRRÉGULIÈRE

La Commission européenne a annoncé hier l'adoption de 6 nouvelles actions au bénéfice de la région du Sahel et du bassin du lac Tchad dans le cadre du [Fonds Fiduciaire d'urgence en faveur de la stabilité et de la lutte contre les causes profondes de la migration irrégulière et du phénomène des personnes déplacées en Afrique](#). Plus de 146 millions d'euros vont être mobilisés afin d'améliorer la gestion des flux migratoires, de renforcer la sécurité dans les zones frontalières, de lutter contre la criminalité organisée et de créer des opportunités économiques durables pour la jeunesse. Neven **Mimica**, Commissaire européen chargé de la coopération internationale et du développement, a déclaré: *"L'objectif de ces nouvelles mesures est double: il s'agit de créer des opportunités économiques pour les jeunes afin qu'ils trouvent là où ils vivent ce dont ils ont besoin. L'objectif est aussi de renforcer la gestion des frontières et la lutte contre les réseaux criminels qui nourrissent scandaleusement des trafics de tout genre. Sur ces deux objectifs, nous avons besoin et nous comptons sur l'engagement fort de nos partenaires africains."* Ces actions visent à renforcer l'appui aux forces de sécurité intérieure ainsi que la gestion des frontières dans les principales zones d'instabilité. Elles s'inscrivent dans le cadre d'une réponse globale de l'Union européenne et sont le fruit d'un dialogue politique renforcé avec ses partenaires sur le sujet de la migration. (EC 14-06-2016)

BANK OF MOZAMBIQUE RAISES INTEREST RATES TO CONTAIN INFLATION

The Bank of Mozambique has revised benchmark interest rates upwards, increasing the marginal lending facility by 1.50 percentage points to 14.25 percent, the bank said Monday in a statement on the decisions of its Monetary Policy Committee.

The interest rate on the deposit facility was also increased by 1.50 percentage points to 7.25 percent, and the committee decided to keep reserve requirements unchanged at 10.5 percent in local currency and 15 percent in foreign currency.

The central bank explained these changes in key interest rates were based on short and medium term forecasts of economic downturn and persistent pressure from the general rise in prices of products and basic services.

In the statement the Bank of Mozambique also mentioned continued exchange rate pressure due to suspension of foreign aid by cooperation partners and political and military tension, all of which are affecting macroeconomic fundamentals in the short and medium term.

At the end of May, the country's foreign reserves fell by US\$80.3 million to US\$1.7138 billion, providing 3.1 months' coverage of goods and services imports, excluding large projects.

On the last day of May the exchange rate against the dollar reached 58.22 meticaïs, or a depreciation of Mozambique's currency of 9.42 percent in one month and 68.61 percent over the previous 12 months. (14-06-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE'S INFLATION JUMPS TO 17.29 PERCENT IN APRIL

Mozambique's National Institute of Statistics (INE) has said the country's consumer inflation quickened to 17.29 percent year-on-year in April from 13.61 percent in March, APA can report on Monday.

INE said in a media statement emailed to APA that Inflation in Mozambique turned negative in May and data from the consumer price indices for the three largest cities (Maputo, Nampula and Beira), according to data it gathered.

INE says in May inflation was minus 0.22 percent and this followed four months of rising prices, and so

the inflation rate for the first five months of the year (January to May) was 8.47 percent.

The fall in inflation was due overwhelmingly to lower prices for certain basic foods. Thus maize fell in price by 8.7 percent, cassava flour by 3.3 percent, cowpeas by 9.6 percent, coconuts by nine percent, and tomatoes by 7.6 percent.

According to INE, judging by previous years, inflation is likely remain low until September, and will then gradually climb again as household food stocks decline, and the festive season approaches. (APA 13-06-2016)

THE ART OF COVERING UP IN SOMALILAND

Amid the hustle and bustle of downtown Hargeisa, Somaliland's sun-blasted capital, women in various traditional Islamic modes of dress barter, argue and joke with men—much of it particularly volubly. Somaliland women are far from submissive and docile.

Somaliland's culture is strongly influenced by Islam—Sharia law is included in its constitution—while this religiousness appears to co-exist with many signs of a liberal free market society, a dynamic embodied by Somaliland women whose roles in society and the economy undercut certain stereotypes about women's Muslim clothing equalling submission or coercion.

"The West needs to stop obsessing about what women are wearing—whether those in the West who are wearing less or those in the East who are wearing more," says 29-year-old Zainab, relaxing in a new trendy café after her day job as a dentist in Hargeisa. "It should focus on what women are contributing to the community and country."

"It's about what's inside your head, not what's over your head." -- Zainab, dentist.

Somaliland has had to develop a strong entrepreneurial streak since 1991 and its declaration of independence from Somalia never being recognised by the international community, leaving it to rebuild its shattered economy and infrastructure alone following a civil war.

Today, many small businesses are run by women, who in addition to bringing up large numbers of children are often breadwinners for families whose husbands were physically or mentally scarred by the war.

"Here women are butchers—that doesn't happen in many places. It shows you how tough Somaliland women are," Zainab says. "It's about what's inside your head, not what's over your head."

The issue of how the Quran, the central religious text of Islam, instructs women to dress is a source of continuing debate around the world, although a traditional stance is taken in Somaliland with all women covering at least their hair in public.

"Everyone is free to follow their religion and this is what the Islamic religion says: that a woman should cover their body," says Kaltun Hassan Abdi, a commissioner at the National Electoral Commission, responsible for female representation in elections. "It's an obligation, so women don't see it as discrimination or violation of rights."

But some Somalilanders express concern about a steady drift toward Islamic conservatism in Hargeisa: music no longer blares out from teashops; colourful Somali robes are increasingly replaced by black abayas; more women are wearing niqabs—face veils—than a year ago; and no woman goes about town bareheaded as happened in the 1970s.

"The last 15-18 years have witnessed a dramatic change in the extent to which religion influences how people live their daily lives," says Rakiya Omaar, a lawyer and chair of Horizon Institute, a consultancy firm that works on strengthening the capacity and self-reliance of institutions in Somaliland. "There is pressure to live as a serious Muslim—it may be subtle or overt; it may come from family or it may be the wider society that you interact with."

But it's hard to find a woman in Hargeisa who says she feels pressurised by Islam or society's adherence to it (women in smaller towns or rural areas are more likely to face increased religious conservatism, Rakiya notes).

"I asked myself why I wear the hijab, and decided because that's Allah's will, and it's part of my religion and my identity, and since then it's been a choice," Zainab says.

During Mohamed Siad Barre's communist-inspired dictatorship throughout the 1970s and '80s, Islam was suppressed in Somalia. Since Somaliland broke away, Islam has been able to reassert itself—including the flourishing of madrassas, Islamic religious schools—with positive effects, according to some.

"There are problems for women here but they're not due to religion rather they are Somali cultural problems," says Khadar Husein, operational director of the Hargeisa office of Transparency Solutions, a UK-based organization focused on capacity building in civil society.

"The man is mainly dominant in Somali society—things like domestic violence go back to that culture but has no root in Islam. Getting a more religious society means eliminating those cultural problems."

But religion doesn't appear to be easing restrictions on women in Somaliland's political life.

"Without a women's quota I don't think there will be any more women in parliament," Baar Saed Farah, the only female in the 82-member Lower Chamber of parliament, says about current lobbying to give 30 seats to women from forthcoming elections in 2017 (no women are permitted in the 82-member House of Elders in the Upper Chamber).

"In normal employment there is no differentiation between genders but when it comes to political participation it becomes very difficult for women because of a culture that favours men," Baar says. "It has been there for a long time—even women may not accept a woman running for election as they're so used to men always leading and making decisions."

Somaliland remains a strongly male-dominated society. Polygyny, where a man can take several wives, is widely condoned and practised. Marriages are frequently arranged between the groom and the family of the bride—without the latter's consent—and it's easier for men to initiate a divorce. The prevalence of female genital mutilation in the Somalia region stands at about 95 percent, according to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund.

And while Somaliland women may be a force to be reckoned with among markets and street-side trading, they still face many limits to full economic opportunities.

"They only operate small businesses, you won't find many rich business women here," says Nafisa Yusuf Mohamed, director of Hargeisa-based female empowerment organisation Nagaad Network. "For now there aren't many alternatives, but this could change as enrolment in higher education is improving." Expanding female education is also affecting Somaliland's increasing religiousness, Nafisa explains, as today's young women better understand than their mothers the Quran, becoming more avid adherents in the process.

Nafisa notes how many young Somalilanders such as her 17-year-old daughter, who recently started wearing the niqab of her own volition, use social media to discuss and learn more about Islam once they finish attending madrassas.

There are also other more prosaic reasons for wearing the likes of the niqab, observers note. Some women wear them because they are shy, or want to protect their skin from harsh sunlight, or want to fit in with friends wearing them.

Changing Muslim clothing trends may be most noticeable to the outsider, but other developments also illustrate Somaliland's increasing religiousness: the extent mosque prayer times affect working hours, both in the public and private sector; the higher proportion of adults praying the full five times a day; and the increasing numbers of mosques built.

"These changes are also a response to wider regional and international developments which have affected the Muslim world, in particular the growing perception that life in the Western world is becoming more hostile to Muslims," Rakiya says.

Although for most Somalilanders, exasperation with the West appears to primarily stem from how countries such as the UK—Somaliland was a UK protectorate until 1960—continue to not recognise its sovereign status, resulting in enormous financial drawbacks for the country.

Hence, as Somaliland celebrates its 25th anniversary of unrecognized independence this year, its economy remains perilously fragile, with poverty and unemployment rampant among its roughly four million-plus population.

"If you look at the happiness of Somalilanders and the challenges they are facing it does not match," Khadar says. "They are happy because of their values and religion." (IPS 10-06-2016)

BRAZIL AND ANGOLA IN THE TOP FIVE COUNTRIES FOR CHINESE INVESTMENT IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC IN THE LAST DECADE

The South Atlantic, where five Portuguese-speaking countries are located, has been a privileged area for key companies China in their efforts at globalisation and Angola and Brazil are among the top five destinations for Chinese investment in the last decade, according to a recent study.

In "China's Risk Map in the South Atlantic," from the United States' German Marshall Fund, researcher Jonas Parello-Plesner estimates, based on data from the American Enterprise Institute (<https://www.aei.org/>) that Chinese investment in Brazil totalled around US\$34 billion between 2005 and 2014, by far the highest level of all countries in the region.

With US\$13.75 billion, Angola is in 5th place, behind Nigeria (US\$28.75 billion), Venezuela (US\$22.11 billion) and Argentina (US\$14.31 billion) and just ahead of South Africa (US\$9.55 billion).

The list includes another member of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, Equatorial Guinea, with US\$2.3 billion.

Angola, where the number of Chinese residents was recently estimated at 200,000, is one of the prominent countries in the study, which analyses the political situation of the Countries selected by China for investment and the implications for Chinese security.

Parello-Plesner said the slowdown in the Angolan economy due to the fall in oil prices made "political relations with China and its vital financial support" "even more important" to the African country.

The researcher of Sino-Angolan relations Lucy Corkin estimated the loans granted by China to Angola at US\$14.5 billion, but other estimates point to values closer to US\$20 billion, largely backed by oil.

Following recent drops in exports from Sudan, Angola has solidified itself as the largest supplier of oil to China, says the researcher.

At a time when Angola is struggling to finance itself, the credit line from China, used to pay 155 public projects with a total of US\$5.2 billion, has been a major source for boosting the economy, focusing on the energy and water sector with US\$2.17 billion for 34 projects.

US\$1.64 billion will be spent on 33 construction sector projects and US\$373,300 on 55 education sector projects, according to data recently released by the LCC.

The contracts for many of these works have been published in the Official Gazette in recent weeks, including for water supply networks and road repairs in the provinces of Bengo, Bié, Huambo, Namibe, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Malanje and Uíge, with an overall cost of US\$550 million.

For example, the China Railway 20 Bureau Group Corporation was contracted to repair the Catchiungo/Chinhama road in Huambo, for US\$58.4 million and to build a water supply system for the city of Cuito for US\$39.2 million.

In the last week of May, the Angolan government has awarded 30 public works contracts worth over US\$1.6 billion to Chinese companies, including the construction of new water supply system in Mucari in the province of Malanje, awarded to China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau for US\$18 million. (13-06-2016)

GHANA: EU AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCES PLANS TO LIFT BAN ON VEGETABLES

The European Union (EU) Ambassador to Ghana, William Hanna, has hinted that the EU has plans to lift the ban placed on the export of some vegetables from Ghana to Europe last year, due to failure to meet the required quality standards, APA learns here on Monday.

He noted that although there is a huge market in the EU for Ghanaian produce, the Union will not compromise on quality standards.

Speaking to Citi Fm, an Accra-based radio stations, Mr. Hanna explained that the EU is currently assisting local farmers through its Trade Related Assistance and Quality Enabling Programme (TRAQUE) to ensure that they meet the standards.

"The market is there; the consumers in Europe are very interested in Ghanaian produce, but you've got to get the quality right. One of the problems we had last year was that a few vegetables were not meeting the right quality standards for the European markets; unfortunately we had to ban those

vegetables,” he stated.

“But the good news is that we are working together to try to ensure that they do meet the standards,” he added. (APA 13-06-2016)

SWITCHMED: PASSING ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION EXPERTISE TO MOROCCAN INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

The last group of a total of 64 professionals from Morocco’s textile, mechanical, chemical and food production sector, completed a training at the end of April on the concepts of the TEST methodology, as part of the Med Test II project, funded by the EU under the SwitchMed programme.

Provided with essential assessment and accounting tools for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), as well as information in how to receive funding from [Morocco Sustainable Energy Financing Facility \(MorSEFF\)](#), the audience welcomed the significant step in establishing a culture of practices and structure towards SCP in Morocco.

The training aimed at developing Morocco’s market of service providers, providing technical expertise to the local industry in processes of sustainable production.

The **SwitchMed sustainable consumption and production programme** aims to promote a switch of the Mediterranean economies towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and green economy, including low emission development, through demonstration and dissemination of methods that improve resource and energy efficiency. It also seeks to minimise the environmental impacts associated to the life cycle of products and services, and, as opportune, to promote renewable energy. (EEAS 10-06-2016)

ANGOLAN AIRLINE TAAG REMOVED FROM EU BLACKLIST

Angolan national airline TAAG has been removed from the European Union (EU) blacklist and is now authorised to fly to all EU countries as well as Portugal, which was the only one where it had been permitted to fly, the airline said in a statement issued in Luanda.

“TAAG received approval from the European Aviation Safety Agency and is now free to apply for any commercial license to operate in any of the Member States of the European Union and is at the same level as any major foreign airline to fly for Europe,” the statement said.

The company was put on the so-called EU blacklist in July 2007 and despite successive community audits only in 2009 obtained authorisation to start test flights to Portugal (first to Lisbon and then also to Porto), after the agreements signed between the civil aviation authorities of the two countries.

In a statement, the company, which is owned by the Angolan State, said that the decision of the European Union is the result of “a process of inspection and audit” carried out “at the beginning of the year” making it possible to approve “that all kinds of aircraft owned by TAAG can fly into the airspace and territory of the Member States. ”

Despite the announcement made by TAAG, the European Union has made no statement on the issue, with 227 airlines banned from flying in the European Union area and eight with restricted activity, according to the latest update, which was made at the end of 2015. (14-06-2016)

TRADE, COOPERATION TOP KENYA, ANGOLA LEADER'S TALKS

Kenya's Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta and José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola focused on trade and bilateral cooperation during their talks in Luanda on Tuesday.

The talks were held on the sidelines of the 6th International Conference on the Great Lakes region (ICGLR).

Uhuru who is on a three state visit to Angola and Jose considered easing the visa regime to ensure Kenyans have improved access to Angola's markets.

Angola's private sector will in return make the most of the opportunities that Kenya offers.

Under Kenya's progressive visa regime, Angolans can already access visas on arrival at a Kenyan port.

At Uhuru's request, Jose said his country will look into allowing national carrier Kenyan Airways to increase scheduled direct passenger flights.

He said they will also consider allowing KQ to use larger aircraft to replace the current Embraer and Boeing 737 that ply the route thrice a week, and launch cargo flights.

He said this will be possible when the construction of a new airport is completed.

Kenya also sought a review of the rules governing Angola's investor licenses and work permits. Uhuru requested that the wealthy Southwest African nation reconsider foreign exchange regulations which hamper business relations.

The leaders agreed that the matter be dealt with in the context of a wider exchange of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding when the two leaders hold a summit.

Jose said he will honour Uhuru's invitation for a state visit in the second half of the year.

The Luanda meeting comes in the wake of a joint economic framework signed in 2014, which established ground rules for cooperation in business and trade.

Angola is Africa's largest oil producer, and one of the continent's fastest growing economies.

Its GDP rose to \$124 billion in 2014, and growth averaged nearly 10 per cent a year in the decade to 2015. Angola is chair of the ICGLR. (APA 14-06-2016)

TUNISIA: 60 FARMERS HAVE ACCESS TO TREATED IRRIGATION WATER THANKS TO EU PROJECT

On 3 June 2016, the Minister of Agriculture of Tunisia, Mr. Saad Seddik, visited and officially inaugurated the pilot plant for the desalination of brackish waters built in the framework of the EU-funded ACCBAT project, implemented under the Cross Border Cooperation programme in the Mediterranean Basin (CBCMed).

The desalination unit is able to reduce the amount of salt in water from 5.8gr/l to 0 for about 200m³ of water per day. The demonstration farm has been also equipped with a 600m³ water storage for the mix of desalinated water and brackish water. This water, with reduced salt concentration (about 1.5gr/l) is used by 60 farmers for the irrigation of greenhouses crop such as tomatoes and cucumbers.

The **ACCBAT project** aims to improve water demand management and ensure water needs of the agricultural sector through the increase of water-use efficiency and of use of treated wastewater. Pilot actions, reinforcement of capacity building and training in Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia are the key activities to achieve these objectives.

The **ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2007/2013** is a multilateral cross-border cooperation programme funded by the European Union under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. It aims at reinforcing cooperation between the EU and partner countries' regions located along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. (EEAS 10-06-2016)

HOW THE NEEDS OF MORE THAN 300,000 DARFURIS ARE NEGLECTED BY THE AID SYSTEM

The Darfur conflict fell out of the headlines years ago, but more than 300,000 Sudanese are still living as refugees in neighbouring Chad, a country with its own problems of poverty, climate change, and insecurity. As humanitarian aid has dried up, how are they surviving in this harsh, arid setting?

At first sight, nothing distinguishes Djabal refugee camp from surrounding towns and villages, except perhaps the billboards along the main road promoting various international aid organisations. This sprawling settlement of huts near the town of Goz Beida in eastern Chad's Sila Region is home to some 20,000 Sudanese who fled war-ravaged West Darfur in the early 2000s.

The camp's marketplace is as busy and colourful as any local market. Vegetable stalls offer tomatoes, carrots and onions, and butchers slice and hack at pieces of fresh meat displayed on wooden table tops.

Across the street, barbers attend to their customers in a makeshift shop, and a teenager behind a laptop offers to download pirated songs. He also sells petrol in plastic bottles, cigarettes, mobile phone credits, and can recharge a mobile phone battery for a modest fee.

However, beneath this veneer of normalcy is a protracted displacement crisis that the humanitarian aid system seems to have forgotten about as it deals with more pressing emergencies.

The refugees of Djabal represent just a fraction of the 304,650 Darfur refugees living in eastern Chad (in the south, the country hosts another 74,000 refugees from Central African Republic and Nigeria). Sila Region alone hosts 62,000 refugees, in three camps – Djabal, Goz Amir, and Kirfi – that have been running for more than a decade.

Jenada Boldadet, a local prefect dressed in a traditional white robe, said the camps are putting a huge strain on this poor, sparsely populated region. He gave IRIN an avalanche of figures and statistics to explain the impact the refugees have had. For example, he said Goz Beida's water supply system, designed to cater for 7,000 people in the regional capital, has struggled to cope with the additional demand.

Hard choices

The aid agencies providing for most of the refugees' basic needs over the past 12 years have challenges of their own. With dwindling funding available from donors preoccupied by newer emergencies, they have had to take tough decisions.

By the end of April, UN refugee agency (UNHCR) operations in Chad were only **16 percent-funded** for the year. Lack of funds has forced the World Food Programme to cut monthly food rations by as much as 60 percent since 2014. Food is now distributed based on four categories of need, ranging from the very needy to the relatively well-off. The very poor receive 70 percent of the previous full ration of 2,100 calories a day, while the less needy receive only 40 percent of a full ration. More cuts to these already meagre rations may be on the way.

Mary-Ellen McGroarty, WFP's country director for Chad, told IRIN that the agency was in urgent need of \$17 million for its refugee assistance programmes in the country. "WFP needs to pre-position large quantities of food stocks for the refugees in advance of the rainy season as many of the refugee camps become inaccessible for trucks from June onwards," she said. "WFP faces significant funding shortfalls to complete this exercise."

With little prospect of refugees being able to return to Sudan anytime soon and funding drying up, UNHCR and its partners have little choice but to push the refugees towards being largely self-reliant.

"The way UNHCR and partners have been delivering assistance has entrenched a dependency mentality that we need to work on now if we're going to give them the capacity to fend for themselves and be self-sustaining," the UN agency's representative in Chad, Antonio Canhandula, told IRIN.

He added that the task was not made easier by the region's arid environment and the struggles that even local people face in finding livelihoods.

Adapting to survive

Last July, Refugees International released a [report](#) that was highly critical of the aid system's lack of support for Sudanese refugees in Chad to move towards self-sufficiency and local integration.

"It is unrealistic to expect refugees to become self-sufficient in a place where livelihood opportunities are hard to find, government services are limited, cost of living is high, host community tensions are increasing, and most crucially, little development funding exists," wrote the authors.

A year later, there is evidence that some of the refugees, eager to improve their living conditions, are making their own way. Those with personal contacts in nearby villages have persuaded traditional chiefs to grant them land to cultivate. The village of Koutoufou for example, offered some refugees from Djabal parcels of arable land for farming.

Starting in 2014, refugees and villagers organised themselves into a farming association, or "groupement", which receives funding from UNHCR in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation. LWF provides agriculture kits – seeds, farming tools, water pumping generators and fences – as well as technical assistance. The project is boosting the income of the villagers and helping refugees integrate into the local community.

Koutoufou, which had just 60 inhabitants before, has seen its population more than double with the arrival of the refugees. "We are much better today," said Mahamat Zene Youssouf, a villager whose annual income has soared since joining the association, from around 15,000 CFA francs (\$26) to about 75,000 (\$130).

Thinking long-term

Sidikh Djimet Idriss, 25, who arrived at Djabal camp when he was just 13, joined the association two years ago. Since then, he has married and had a child. He told IRIN he worries less about his own future than about how he'll ensure his child gets the education he didn't. His hope is to attend a vocational training school like the one set up by LWF in Djabal.

In operation since 2006, the centre has trained around 2,000 refugees and local Chadians in trades ranging from construction, carpentry, soldering, mechanics and electricity, to agriculture. The course initially lasted nine months but has had to be reduced to six due to funding shortages, explained Khamis Barka, head of the training centre.

But such initiatives are only benefitting a minority of the refugees. Others compete for occasional casual work in Goz Beida and surrounding villages. Job opportunities are few and far between in this drought-prone region, where many of the local Chadians are themselves in need of food assistance.

Abdallah Djouma, 58, lives at Djabal camp with his wife and four children. He earns a few dollars a day reselling goods he buys from traders at local markets. He also farms a small plot of land. "Last year was bad," he told IRIN. "We didn't have sufficient rain."

"I am not an idle man," he added. "I always manage to get extra revenue to take care of our basic needs."

Without that extra income, the family would not survive. "The reduced rations are far from sufficient to cover our everyday needs," he said.

The reality is that aid agencies like UNHCR cannot provide for the refugees' needs in the **long term**. "People see us as a development body, but we are just an emergency aid agency," commented Peggy Pentshi-a-Maneng, head of UNHCR operations in Goz Beida.

After 12 years, the Darfur refugees can no longer be considered as an emergency case, said Canhandula, the UNHCR country head, adding that they should be seen as part of the broader development challenges facing their host country. "I think more attention needs to be paid... to what 400,000 refugees represent to the government of Chad, because it's a country that's quite poor, where the standards of living, health, water, and education are very low.

"There should be solidarity with the government of Chad." (IRIN 09-06-2016)

FORTY-SIX CHINESE-OWNED COMPANIES REGISTERED IN GUINEA-BISSAU

The Company Formalisation Centre (CFE) of Guinea-Bissau from May 2011 to May 2016, registered 46 companies whose owners are from China or Guineans associated with citizens from that country.

Statistical data from the CFE showed that the 46 companies are linked to agriculture, fisheries, catering, clothing sales, cosmetics and computer products, among others.

China is the company to set up the second-largest amount of companies in Guinea-Bissau in 2016, with six projects, surpassed only by India, which registered eleven companies, of a total 3,809 national, mixed and foreign companies that were registered.

CFE data also showed that between 2013 and 2014 there were a large number of registrations of Chinese-owned companies, with a total of 22.

In 2015 just 10 Chinese-owned companies were registered in Guinea-Bissau, which shows that there has been a slight decline, accentuated further this year, at least in the first five months. (10-06-2016)

MEGA DAMS REMAIN CONTROVERSIAL SOURCE OF ENERGY

Although mega dams can have devastating impacts on ecosystems and indigenous communities, many of the world's poorest countries still see them as a way to fill gaping holes in their energy supplies.

One such project is the Inga III dam, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The dam is a part of the larger Inga project, which when completed will be the biggest dam project in the world, almost twice as big as the Three Gorges Dam in China.

In March 2014, the World Bank awarded the project \$73 million to carry out environmental and social impact assessments, however two years later, these assessments have yet to begin, and the advocacy group International Rivers now fears that construction of the project may be rushed ahead without them. According to International Rivers the head of the Grand Inga Project Office, recently announced that construction of the dam was set to begin by 2017, whether or not the relevant impact assessments had taken place before hand.

The World Bank told IPS that it is "continuing dialogue with the Government of DRC about the implementation arrangements of the Inga-3 BC (Inga III) project, with the goal of ensuring the project follows international good practice."

However Bosshard believes that the DRC's track record of implementing mega projects, including the Inga I and Inga II projects which he said were one of the main components of a debt crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has ultimately been one of failure.

"Wind and solar aren't the small brothers and sisters of hydropower anymore and they really have become mainstream and it's a pity that the World Bank (hasn't realised) that the era of mega dams, that time has passed around the world." -- Peter Bosshard, International Rivers.

The West African country is described as being afflicted by the so-called resource curse, due to high levels of poverty and conflict despite its wealth in natural resources.

International Rivers also do not believe that the Inga III project will necessarily benefit the DRC population, 90 percent of whom have no access to electricity, but instead will largely produce energy for export markets and mining operations in the DRC.

The Inga III is not the only controversial mega dam project. Although these projects can provide a significant amount of energy, they also meet with significant resistance across the developing world, particularly from Indigenous groups whose lands are often disproportionately impacted by these projects. The Indigenous peoples who protest these dams often pay with their lives, as was the case with Honduran Indigenous activist Berta Caceres whose protests against the Agua Zarca Dam led to her murder earlier this year.

The dams not only have environmental impacts on rivers and forests, but also pose an existential threat to indigenous groups.

Manu Ampim Director of the Save Nubia Project told IPS that "a series of recent and current dam projects in the Sudan (have) and will continue to devastate various cultural groups," including the Amri, the Manasir and the Nubia.

Ampim said that the impact of dams on the Nubian people is particularly concerning because "ancient Nubia is one of the most significant Nile Valley civilizations, dating back many millennia."

Ampim said that there should be international pressure on the Sudanese government “to change plans to the use of more efficient and clean, and less destructive, sources of energy, such as solar energy, micro-hydro, and wind turbine.”

However while wind and solar projects have been increasingly significantly in capacity, Angus McCrone, Chief Editor at Bloomberg New Energy Finance told IPS that current and future dam projects still have a role to play in meeting energy needs.

“A lot of developing countries want to do both, they do want large hydro if they’ve got the resources for it and they also want wind and solar,” he said.

Yet McCrone noted that the sustainability of dam projects is variable.

“If you’re looking at sustainability some large hydro projects score well and some don’t.”

“There are some large hydro projects that are pretty heavily criticised for sustainability whether it’s causing methane release or effecting biodiversity or causing international tension between countries because of some damming up the rivers,” he said.

McCrone also noted that wind and solar have a “speed advantage” which makes them “pretty attractive to developing countries with rapidly rising energy needs.”

While the variable sustainability of mega dam projects is one reason why Bloomberg New Energy Finance does not include mega hydro in their annual [reports](#) on renewable energy trends, McCrone says that there are checks in place to ensure that the projects are sustainable.

“(When) the development banks lend to renewable energy projects they go through a decision making process on large hydro projects and in practice they support some of them and they don’t support others,” said McCrone.

However Bosshard noted that while he also is not against all hydro projects, that the severe consequences of these projects are often underestimated.

“If you could build a project of 4800 megawatts with very little displacement and possibly limited environmental impacts we would not in principle be opposed to that,” he said. “But obviously this approach doesn’t happen in a vacuum, this approach happens in a country (the DRC) that has all the experience in trying to build mega projects and has ultimately failed.”

Bosshard said that recent developments in wind and solar technologies meant that they had become much more viable alternatives to mega dams.

“At a time when wind and solar are breaking even on financial terms and you can build them in one or two years why wait 10 years for a new hydropower dam,” said Bosshard.

“Wind and solar aren’t the small brothers and sisters of hydropower any more and they really have become mainstream and it’s a pity that the World Bank (hasn’t realised) that the era of mega dams, that time has passed around the world.” (IPS 06-06-2016)

TIGER SAYS EXIT FROM ETHIOPIA DOES NOT SIGNAL A RETREAT FROM THE REST OF AFRICA

Food producer Tiger Brands on Thursday pulled the plug on a second major African market, with the sale of its stake in an Ethiopian business — less than six months after it disposed of a Nigerian venture. But the company said the exit did not signal a retreat from the rest of Africa, but was rather a realignment of its growth strategy.

The continent’s largest food producer said it would offload its 51% stake in East African Tiger Brands Industries (Eatbi) to its joint venture partners. The disposal followed a review with its partner, EAG. A significant investment to secure raw materials had been one of the issues identified in the review, Tiger Brands said.

“(Our) core competency lies in developing branded products for the end consumer,” it said.

Its new strategy would focus on strong brands and categories in which it had a proven track record.

Eatbi’s core focus was laundry detergents, a category in which Tiger did not have a strong presence.

Its core competencies were in food products, such as Albany bread; breakfast cereals including Jungle Oats; Tastic rice; maize brand Ace; tinned fruit and vegetables such as Koo; and energy drinks.

Tiger did not disclose the amount for which it would sell the Ethiopian stake, but said it would make a profit. Tiger bought Eatbi in 2011, under the leadership of former CEO Peter Matlare, who drove much of the expansion across the continent.

In 2012, Matlare led the acquisition of the 65.7% stake in Nigerian consumer goods business Dangote Industries (formerly Dangote Flour Mills) for R1.6bn.

But the Nigerian venture turned sour and after several losses, Tiger sold its controlling stake back to Nigerian partner and business tycoon Aliko Dangote for \$1 in December 2015. Dangote Industries has since returned to profit.

During Matlare's tenure, Tiger Brands also incurred losses in its Kenyan operations — which were hit by allegations of fraud.

When new CEO Lawrence MacDougall took office in May, he pledged a sweeping overhaul of the operations.

Although analysts had expected a realignment of operations, the decision to exit Ethiopia came as a surprise, said Investec's Anthony Geard.

"Ethiopia was at the bottom of the list in terms of countries we expected (them) to exit."

Geard said this now "puts a question mark on their preparedness to take on Africa risk".

Sumil Seeraj, equity research analyst at Standard Bank, agreed that the sale raised questions about Tiger's approach to the rest of Africa, and which other operations could see possible divestment.

Seeraj said cutting back on Africa would be problematic, given SA's low economic growth. "It's a catch-22 situation. Where else will Tiger get growth outside SA?" he asked.

Tiger has five manufacturing plants outside SA and exports to 21 countries on the continent. (BD 10-06-2016)

MOZAMBICAN COMPANY INCLUDED IN LIST OF AFRICA'S 250 LARGEST COMPANIES

Beer maker Cervejas de Moçambique is the only company from a Portuguese-speaking African country on the list of the 250 largest companies in Africa drawn up by African Business magazine, according to the May 2016 edition.

The list, sorted by market capitalisation, is dominated by companies from South Africa, which occupy the first nine places, 37 in the top 50 and 106 places in the total of the 250 largest.

According to African Business, Cervejas de Moçambique, which fell two positions from 2015 to 2016, had a market capitalisation of US\$320 million.

The biggest company on this list – SABMiller – had a market capitalization of US\$98.838 billion at the end of 2015, way out ahead of mining company BHP Billiton, which was worth US\$65.25 billion.

The first non-South African company to appear on this list is in 10th place, Dangote Cement of Nigeria, with a market capitalisation of US\$14.367 billion. (10-06-2016)

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The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO, HTTC, NABA, NABC (by posting selected news) to their Members.



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The third edition of [Africa Works!](#), by NABC, will take place 10-11 November 2016 at the Koninklijk Instituut Tropen (KIT). This year's theme, Innovation in Finance, includes six sub themes: Fintech, Financing businesses, Funding facilities, Access to finance, Regulation & innovation, and Private Equity & Venture Capitalists for development. In accordance with these six themes, 12 workshops will be hosted in collaboration with the Dutch and African private and public sector. There is an open **call for companies** active in the **banking** or **financial** sectors to participate as a **host** for one of **the workshops**. [To seize this opportunity](#), we invite you to get in touch with [Mr. Pedro Besugo](#) at pedro.besugo@nabc.nl. In view of the limited number of workshops we encourage you to respond as soon as possible.

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