



MEMORANDUM

N° 175/2014 | 17/09/2014

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UN SAYS \$1BN NEEDED TO FIGHT EBOLA

Nearly \$1bn is needed to fight the Ebola outbreak raging in West Africa, the United Nations said Tuesday, more than doubling the estimate it made less than a month ago.

UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos told reporters in Geneva there was a "huge funding challenge", warning that "if not dealt with effectively now, Ebola could become a major humanitarian crisis in countries currently affected." The response to the crisis will require \$987.8m, with about half needed for the worst-hit country, Liberia, the UN said in its response plan.

It stressed there were some 22-million people living in the three countries most affected by the outbreak. The UN announcement came as the death toll from the worst-ever Ebola epidemic rose to 2,461, out of 4,985 cases in the three west African countries that have borne the brunt of the disease, according to fresh figures from the World Health Organisation.

The UN document estimates that some 20,000 people could be infected with Ebola by the end of the year, with Guinea accounting for 16% of infections, Sierra Leone 34% and Liberia a full 40%. If the international community and affected countries respond swiftly and energetically, transmission should begin to slow by the end of the year and end by mid-2015, the document said.

"This health crisis we face is unparalleled in modern times," WHO's emergency chief Bruce Aylward said at a joint press conference.

"We don't know where the numbers are going," he said, pointing out that two weeks ago when WHO said it needed the capacity to manage 20,000 cases, "that seemed like a lot." "That does not seem like a lot today," Mr Aylward said.

While it was difficult to estimate accurately how many people might become infected and die going forward, Mr Aylward said WHO believed "the numbers can be kept in the tens of thousands, but that is going to require a much faster escalation of the response if we're to beat the escalation of the virus." (AFP 16-09-2014)

TUNISIA: €300 MILLION LOAN TO SPEED UP ECONOMIC REFORMS

The European Union and Tunisia have signed a loan agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding for macro-financial assistance (MFA) to Tunisia. This aid will help Tunisia face the serious economic difficulties resulting from a weak external economic environment and a difficult political transition process.

This financial aid of a total amount of €300 million will be disbursed in 2014 and 2015 in three instalments of €100 million each. The MFA will complement the additional financial resources provided by the EU to Tunisia, in the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and the SPRING programme, aimed at supporting partnership, reforms and an inclusive growth.

It will also complement the reforms and economic adjustment programme agreed between Tunisia and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), approved by the IMF in June 2013 for a two-year period.

The MFA is linked to the implementation by Tunisia of a number of economic measures described in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) is a form of financial aid extended by the EU to partner countries experiencing a balance of payments crisis. It takes the form of medium/long-term loans or grants, or a

combination of these, and is only available to countries benefiting from a disbursing International Monetary Fund programme. (EU Neighbourhood 12-09-2014)

NEW REPORT SAYS CEOS IN AFRICA OPTIMISTIC ABOUT GROWTH

CEOs in Africa are optimistic about their company's prospects for revenue growth over the medium term, according to PwC's 'Africa Business Agenda, 2014' report issued Thursday. "CEOs in Africa feel more positive about their ability to generate revenue growth and about prospects for the economy now that they are emerging from the global financial recession," Suresh Kana, Senior Partner for PwC Africa said in a statement.

"It is interesting to note however that CEOs are slightly more anxious about their prospects for growth over the short-term."

Kana further remarked that although 84% remain confident overall, only 40% say they are 'very confident'.

"CEOs acknowledge that a lot more needs to be done in terms of transforming the continent's potential for exponential growth into tangible business opportunities," he says, adding: "CEOs are looking on multiple fronts for growth opportunities – for many, the search for growth will not be an easy task."

The Business Agenda compiles results from 260 CEOs in Africa and includes insights from business and public sector leaders from 18 countries.

The report shows that most CEOs in Africa feel confident about their approach to managing risk, despite some volatility and uncertainty.

It is also observed that the pace of change in the world is speeding up with a series of transitions, known as global megatrends that will transform business and society.

African CEOs are said to have ranked technological advances (69%), urbanisation (67%) and demographic shifts (63%) as the top three defining trends that will transform their businesses over the next five years.

They are said to be aware of the implications of the changes for their businesses, as well as the outlook for Africa and many CEOs reportedly recognised the need for change or are making changes to their businesses.

"Every day breakthroughs in frontiers of research and development are opening up new opportunities for businesses. As technologies progress, they will generate more improvements in efficiency and productivity. In turn, these advances are expected to trigger a strong acceleration in economic growth towards the end of the coming decade," Mr. Kana commented.

Confidence is said to be on the rise among Africa's CEOs and in general, they are more confident about their own company's growth than they are about their industry's prospects.

Going forward, African CEOs say that they will be more actively looking for partners, while keeping an eye on costs.

Almost half of them reportedly plan to initiate a new strategic alliance or joint venture in the next 12 months and nearly a third are anticipating an acquisition, mainly in their home country or elsewhere in Africa.

China is said to be emerging as a key for consideration for growth prospects, followed by the US and South Africa, respectively.

'This is an indication of overall better economic prospects, higher availability of finance, and the growing presence of potential local and international partners attracted by the continent's potential,' the statement added.

The report further observes that infrastructure is important in driving economic growth and employment on the continent.

However, 45% of African CEOs believe that their governments have been ineffective in improving the country's basic infrastructure, such as electricity, water supply, transport and housing.

CEOs also identified the creation of a skilled workforce (64%), the reduction of poverty and inequality (62%), and creating more jobs for young people (74%) as areas in which governments should be taking more decisive action and creating a business-friendly environment.

"Africa is a complex and diverse continent. Doing business on the continent can be a daunting experience for any organisation as they are faced with a myriad of uncertainties and challenges in different political, economic and legal environments.'

"Notwithstanding the difficulties and challenges ahead, many African organisations have learnt to brace themselves and adapt quickly, overcoming many of these challenges, including mitigating the risks – and turning Africa into the next frontier of growth," the statement concluded. (Pana 12/09/2014)

IMF BOARD APPROVES ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF 2012 BORROWING AGREEMENTS

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a one-year extension of the 2012 Borrowing Agreements, noting that these agreements have played a key role in ensuring that the Fund has adequate resources to meet members' potential needs in the event that tail risks were to materialise.

In a statement late Wednesday, the IMF said in 2012, a number of member countries committed to increasing IMF resources through bilateral borrowing agreements.

Following Executive Board approval of the modalities for the 2012 borrowing agreements, 35 agreements for a total of about US\$441 billion (SDR 288 billion) have been approved by the Board, of which 32 agreements are now effective for a total of US\$425 billion (SDR 277 billion).

'The 2012 Borrowing Agreements are designed as a second line of defence after quota and New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) resources and have so far not been activated for use in financing operations,' said the IMF.

'Each agreement has an initial two-year term, and a maximum term of four years,' it added, noting that after this decision on 8 Sept., which followed consultations with lenders, the initial two-year term of the agreements will be extended by one year. (Pana 12/09/2014)

MAURITIUS POST LAUNCHES POSTCODE DIRECTORY

Mauritius Post Ltd Thursday launched its first postcode directory that will enable faster sorting and delivery of mails, packets and parcels, PANA reported from here. Mauritius Post Ltd Chief Executive Officer Giandev Moteea said the Postcode is a unique identifier that is considered as a fundamental and essential element of an address.

'It unambiguously identifies the addressee's locality and sub-locality. At present, 130 countries around the world uses postcodes in their addressing systems,' he said.

The postcode in Mauritius consists of a 5-digit code indicating the district, the village/town and the sub-locality of the addressees.

PANA reports that Mauritius has 348,500 households, 130 village councils areas, 7 towns and 1,450 sub-localities. Mauritius Post launches Postcode Directory

The Postal Service was created in Mauritius in 1772 by Pierre Nicolas Lambert under the French colonisation of the island.

It developed under the British authority as from 1834 and the first stamp was issued in 1840.

Mauritius is famous for its 'orange-red one penny' and 'deep-blue two pence' stamps issued on 21 Sept. 1847.

After Independence in 1968, the Mauritius Postal Service was attached to the Government. It became a private company in 2003.

Today, it operates 114 post offices and one mobile van throughout the island, 5 post offices in Rodrigues and one on the island of Agalega.

It offers more than 65 products and postal and non-postal services to the population. (Pana 12/09/2014)

UNCTAD REPORTS CALLS FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

A new UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report has said that, six years after the start of the global economic and financial crisis, the world economy has still not found a sustainable growth path.

The report, subtitled: 'Global governance and policy space for development', suggested that 'getting back to business as usual has failed to address the root causes of the crisis and the 'new normal' has some worrying parallels with the conditions that initially led to the global financial crisis in 2008, namely rising inequalities and asset bubbles.'

In a statement on the report, UNCTAD said 'with expected growth of 2.5 to 3 per cent in 2014 keeping the global recovery weak, policies supporting it are not only inadequate but often inconsistent.

'This means that simply relying on buoyant asset prices, trade competitiveness and declining wage shares to maintain growth cannot bring the world economy back to robust health.'

It noted that, 'indeed, developing countries have managed to recover from the 'great recession' after 2009 faster than developed countries, in part by supporting domestic demand with countercyclical policies.'

'However, there have been limitations and the idea that emerging economies have decoupled from events in the advanced economies is no longer tenable,' the statement said.

It said the report also points out that growth in Japan and the US is not expected to improve in 2014, while growth will exceed 5.5 per cent in Asian and sub-Saharan countries, but will remain subdued at around 1 per cent in North Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

It also revealed that transition economies are expected to further dip to around 1 per cent, from an already weak performance in 2013.

'Developing countries will continue to face the challenges of a persistent instability of the international financial system and tackling this requires macroeconomic and regulatory policies and mirroring economic activity, international trade remains lacklustre due to weak global demands.

'Breaking from this protracted period of low economic growth requires strengthening aggregate demand through real wage growth and more equal income distribution rather than new 'financial bubbles', ' the statement quoted the report as saying. (Pana 12/09/2014)

UNE DECLARATION DE PATRIMOINE OBLIGATOIRE AU SENEGAL

Opération transparence imposée aux politiques sénégalais appelés à gouverner et à la plupart des hauts fonctionnaires. Un décret les oblige à déclarer leurs biens. Il appartient au tout jeune Office national de lutte contre la fraude et la corruption de les vérifier. Paradoxalement, les députés échappent à l'obligation.

Le président de l'Assemblée nationale, le chef du gouvernement et ses ministres, le président du Conseil économique social et environnemental (CESE), certains directeurs généraux de l'administration ont désormais – et ils ne sont pas les seuls – l'obligation de publier leur déclaration de patrimoine. En signant, le 5 septembre dernier, le décret d'application sur la déclaration de patrimoine, le chef de l'État, Macky Sall, permet de mettre en musique la loi adoptée en mars dernier à l'unanimité par les députés et qui impose cette obligation. *“L'objectif est de promouvoir, d'une part la responsabilité, la probité et l'intégrité des autorités dans l'exercice de leurs hautes fonctions, et d'exclure, d'autre part, toute tentative d'accaparement des moyens et des ressources qui leur sont affectés”*, justifiait, au moment du vote de la loi, Abdou Latif Coulibaly, le ministre de la Promotion de la bonne gouvernance.

Liste exhaustive

Le décret d'application présidentiel a été préparé par les services de l'Office national de lutte contre la fraude et la corruption (Ofnac). Un jeune organisme né d'une loi de 2012 et qui est opérationnel depuis mars 2014. Il dispose d'un pouvoir d'autosaisine, d'investigation et il peut également saisir lui-même la justice.

Le décret établit une liste exhaustive des personnalités politiques ou de l'administration qui devront remettre leur déclaration de patrimoine à l'Ofnac. Hormis le président de la République, qui doit la déposer au Conseil constitutionnel, tous les ministres donc, ainsi que la présidence et le bureau de l'Assemblée nationale devront s'y conformer.

Le pouvoir judiciaire n'échappe pas à l'obligation : les membres du Conseil constitutionnel, le Premier président et les présidents des chambres de la Cour suprême, les procureurs généraux, les procureurs de la République, les greffiers en chef près les cours et tribunaux sont concernés.

Il en va de même pour les directeurs généraux et les directeurs généraux adjoints d'administration, des membres du haut commandement de la force publique, des inspecteurs des directions du ministère de l'Économie et des Finances et des directeurs d'agence, les inspecteurs d'État et les vérificateurs chargés de l'apurement des comptes, les ambassadeurs, les représentants permanents de l'État auprès des organisations internationales, les recteurs des universités, les doyens des facultés, les directeurs des écoles supérieures publiques, les préfets, les gouverneurs...

Taux élevé de corruption

Le décret s'applique aussi aux chefs de parti et de groupements politiques, aux candidats à l'élection présidentielle, aux têtes de liste des partis ou coalitions politiques aux élections législatives, ainsi qu'aux dirigeants d'organismes privés bénéficiant d'un appui financier substantiel de l'État ou aux dirigeants de fédération sportive... Bref, tous les responsables qui manipuleront de l'argent public seront soumis à cette obligation de transparence.

Contre toute attente, les députés échappent à cette contrainte ainsi que les maires dont le budget est inférieur à 1 milliard de francs CFA (1,52 million d'euros). Abdou Latif Coulibaly avait justifié ces exemptions lors du vote de la loi par le grand nombre des personnalités concernées et du faible effectif de l'Ofnac, chargé de recueillir et de vérifier les déclarations de patrimoine.

Le chef de l'État devra donc poursuivre sa démarche s'il veut convaincre totalement les Sénégalais de sa volonté de lutter contre la corruption. Car si le rapport annuel 2013 du groupe intergouvernemental d'action contre le blanchiment d'argent en Afrique de l'ouest (Giaba) reconnaît que "*le nouveau gouvernement du Président Macky Sall a démontré son engagement à améliorer la qualité de la gouvernance*", des progrès sont encore à réaliser. Le Giaba fait ainsi référence au rapport 2013 de l'Organe international de contrôle des stupéfiants (INCSR) du département d'État américain qui a relevé au Sénégal "*un taux de corruption élevé, un phénomène qui frappe tous les niveaux de gouvernance et le commerce*". (Acteurs Publiques 10-09-2014)

EU RELATIONS MOSTLY SEEN AS GOOD IN NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO NEW BAROMETER SURVEY

Relations between the European Neighbourhood countries and the European Union continue to be perceived in a predominantly positive light, according to the findings of the fifth wave (Spring 2014) of the EU Neighbourhood Barometer just released. About half of those polled share this opinion - 53% in the East and 49% in the South, showing a positive trend in comparison to autumn 2013 (up 6 percentage points).

According to the poll, the European Union still appears in a predominantly favourable light in the Eastern Partnership countries, with 40% of respondents seeing the image of the EU as positive. However, perceptions of the EU have clearly worsened since spring 2013, with fewer respondents seeing the EU in a positive light (down 4 percentage points since spring 2013) and a higher proportion of respondents considering the EU's image as negative (increase of 9 percentage points).

The image of the European Union is more stable in the ENPI South region, with 38% saying they have a good image, 12% "neutral", and 10% "negative". The image of the EU is more positive in the Maghreb countries (62%) than in the Mashrek countries (41%), where, in any case, criticism is not very high (13%) as there are 37% "neutral".

Respondents in the Eastern Partnership countries continue to name peace and security (60%), trade (37%) and tackling poverty (34%) as the most important areas of cooperation between the EU and their country. Compared to autumn 2013, the most distinct development is observed for peace and security: considerably more respondents now think that it is among the most important areas of cooperation (+16 percentage points).

In parallel, respondents continue to think that EU development aid should be more focused on peace and security (51%) and tackling poverty (19%). Here, the increasing concern of peace and security is even more pronounced (+25 percentage points).

The results are slightly different in the Southern Neighbourhood: the main areas of cooperation identified are trade (35%), peace and security (26%), but also employment (23%). These topics are also the main expectations for future cooperation with the EU, with the fight against poverty.

Countries covered in the survey are:

- East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Russian Federation
- Maghreb: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia
- Mashrek: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine
- Egypt

Russian results are not taken into consideration when calculating East averages; Egyptian results are not taken into consideration when calculating the Mashrek averages.

The **EU Neighbourhood Barometer** project, funded under the DG Development and Cooperation (EuropeAid) [Regional Communication Programme](#), conducts opinion polls and monitors the media in the 16 partner countries and territories participating in the European Neighbourhood Policy, plus Russia. (EU Neighbourhood 11-09-2014)

WATER GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF UFM PROJECT IN JORDAN AND TUNISIA

The first phase of the UfM-labelled project on “Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector” has been completed following successful policy dialogues in Jordan and Tunisia. The project aims to improve public governance and attract investments to the water sector of the Mediterranean region.

The promoters of the project, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), organised workshops to launch national reports in Amman and Tunis respectively. Stakeholders from the water and wastewater sector – authorities, utilities, donors, civil society, private sector, etc. – met to discuss the report’s findings and recommendations based on the analytical work and a series of consultation meetings held during the preceding ten months.

Discussions refined the proposed recommendations and set the foundation for defining a roadmap to reduce regulatory risks in the water sector and enhance stakeholders’ engagement, with consensus on the need to strengthen current reforms of the regulatory framework for water and sanitation services.

The strengthening of an existing Performance Management Unit (PMU) in the Jordanian Ministry to transform it into the utility regulator was recommended as a step in the right direction, while in Tunisia the implementation of public-private partnerships (PPP) still requires a change not only to administrative culture, but also to water supply and sanitation service modalities.

The project’s first regional conference will be held on 28-30 October in Athens to share the experiences collected so far with participants from around the Mediterranean.

The **Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector project** is a joint undertaking of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med). It aims to diagnose key governance bottlenecks to financing through public private partnerships (PPP) for the Mediterranean water sector and to support the development of consensual action plans based on international best practices. (EU Neighbourhood 11-09-2014)

THAILAND’S PTTEP GROUP PLANS TO INVEST US\$1 BILLION IN MOZAMBIQUE

Thai state group PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) said Monday it planned to invest up to US\$1 billion in a project in Mozambique within 5 to 6 years beginning in 2015, financial news agency Reuters reported.

The group’s chief executive, Tevin Vongnavich, noted that the project aims to be producing 10 million tons of liquefied natural gas from late 2018 or early 2019.

In 2012 the Thai state group acquired Irish company Cove Energy, which had an 8.5 percent share of the Area 1 block in the Rovuma Basin, northern Mozambique, operated by US-based Anadarko Petroleum. (16-09-2014)

PREMIERS PAS DU FORUM MEDITERRANEEN DU SERVICE PUBLIC

Échanges d'expériences, partage de documents, formations à distance... Une communauté numérique entre les écoles et les instituts de formation au service public est née autour de la Méditerranée. De l'Espagne à la Grèce, au nord, et du Maroc au Liban, au sud, plusieurs établissements coopèrent déjà.

Tous pour un et un pour tous. C'est la devise adoptée par les écoles et les instituts de formation au service public du pourtour méditerranéen. Sur près d'une centaine d'écoles identifiées et vouées à la formation des futurs fonctionnaires de leur pays autour de la Grande Bleue, une cinquantaine ont déjà décidé d'unir leurs efforts et de partager leurs expériences et leurs connaissances.

Une initiative qui a donné naissance sur la Toile au Forum méditerranéen du service public, le 17 juin. Ses membres se sont retrouvés pour leur réunion de rentrée le 9 septembre à Paris, avec la présence d'une dizaine d'écoles et d'instituts du sud de la Méditerranée.

Tout a démarré à Marseille et à Aix-en-Provence, en octobre 2012, à l'initiative du Centre national de la fonction publique territoriale (CNFPT), à l'occasion de la première conférence du Réseau français des écoles de service public (RESP), qui réunit une quarantaine d'écoles (ENA, IRA, ENM, École de la police, de la gendarmerie, de La Poste, etc.). À l'origine du projet, Vincent Potier, le directeur général du CNFPT, qui est également, depuis juin, le responsable international du RESP.

Démarche de coopération internationale

“En France, chaque école a son programme et son responsable international. L'idée de départ était de se réunir pour voir ensemble ce que nous pouvions faire et dépasser ainsi ce que chaque école réalise de son côté dans ce domaine. C'est comme cela qu'est né le projet de créer le Forum méditerranéen du service public”, explique Andreas Korb, directeur de la mission des coopérations internationales au CNFPT.

Depuis 2012, des contacts et des liens ont été noués avec le réseau Gift-Mena (Governance Institutes Forum for Training in the Middle East and North Africa) lancé en 2006. Ainsi qu'avec plusieurs écoles comme l'Institut national des finances du Liban, le Bureau technique des villes libanaises, le Centre de formation et d'appui à la décentralisation tunisien (Cefad), l'École nationale des finances de Tunisie, l'École nationale d'administration marocaine, etc.

Une démarche de coopération internationale qui s'inscrit dans le cadre du Partenariat de Deauville (décidé lors du G8 en 2011), destiné à concevoir une série d'actions pour renforcer les pratiques de bonne gouvernance dans les pays en transition au sein de l'espace méditerranéen. Le projet colle à la stratégie internationale du CNFPT, relancée en 2009, qui s'est fixée comme priorité les actions de coopération avec les États du sud de la Méditerranée et d'Afrique de l'Ouest dans les domaines de la formation et de l'appui à la décentralisation.

Ressources en français, anglais et arabe

Le 17 juin dernier, le projet s'est donc concrétisé. Une communauté numérique à vu le jour sur Internet avec la mise en ligne d'un site (<http://www.forumedsp.org/xwiki/wiki/mediterranee/>). L'objectif ? Procéder à des échanges d'expériences, partager des documents ou proposer des modules de formation à distance grâce à l'*e-learning*. Des ressources partagées en français, en anglais et en arabe. Au menu des discussions : des sujets sur l'administration publique, la réforme de l'État, la décentralisation, la gouvernance, le management et l'organisation stratégique des institutions publiques, le développement des compétences des ressources humaines...

Le Forum méditerranéen du service public n'en est qu'à ses débuts. Il compte une dizaine d'adhérents du Sud. Et il espère bien convaincre d'autres centres de le rejoindre, sur un potentiel d'une cinquantaine d'écoles et d'instituts de formation au service public implantés au sud de la Méditerranée, du Maroc au Liban. Le Forum veut mettre également tout en œuvre pour mettre en ligne des productions en arabe. Et trouver un terrain d'entente avec des institutions internationales comme la Banque mondiale et l'OCDE, qui ont déjà mis en place des outils pour la formation aux services publics dans la région.

Pour se faire connaître et poursuivre leur collaboration, les membres du Forum se sont déjà donnés rendez-vous en mai ou juin 2015, à Tunis, pour plancher sur le thème : “La formation, levier du développement”. Une manifestation qui sera organisée par le Cefad, organisme qui forme déjà 6 000 élus et fonctionnaires tunisiens par an. (Acteurs Publiques 10-09-2014)

ANGOLA MANAGES ITS OWN INTERNET DOMAIN

Management of the “.ao” Internet domain will be transferred from Portugal to Angola starting in 2015, according to recent legislation approved by the Angolan government.

A joint ruling by the Ministers for Telecommunications and Information Technology, José Carvalho da Rocha, and for Science and Technology, Maria Candida Teixeira Pereira, on 11 September, said “conditions are being created for the transfer of the domain root from Portugal to Angola,” and now a committee has been set up along with a technical working group to monitor the entire process.

The technical group has 30 days to present a schedule that allows the transfer of the management of the Internet domain, with a subsequent period of 120 days.

The rules and standards for geocoding country domain names on the Internet are defined by an international institution of standardisation. (16-09-2014)

AFRICA’S DIVIDING FARMLANDS A THREAT TO FOOD SECURITY

When Kiprui Kibet pictures his future as a maize farmer in the fertile Uasin Gishu county in Kenya’s Rift Valley region, all he sees is the ever-decreasing plot of land that he has to farm on.

“I used to farm on 40 hectares but now I only have 0.8 hectares. My father had 10 sons and we all wanted to own a piece of the farmland. Subdivision ... ate into the actual farmland,” Kibet tells IPS. “From 3,200 bags a harvest, now I only produce 20 bags, at times even less.”

Experts say that Africa’s extensive land subdivision is emerging as a significant threat to food security. Statistics by the [Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#) show that a majority of Africa’s farmers now farm on less than one hectare of land.

According to FAO, in the last 10 years the land/person in agriculture ratio in Kenya declined from 0.264 to the current 0.219. Explained as a percentage, this means that the number of people with one hectare of agricultural land in Kenya decreased by 17 percent over the last decade.

Within the same period, the number of people with one hectare of agricultural land declined by 13 percent in Zambia and by 16 percent in Uganda.

Allan Moshi, a land policy expert on sub-Saharan Africa based in Zambia, tells IPS that while investors are rushing to East and southern Africa and making large-scale planned land acquisitions, “large-scale land acquisition not only reduces available land for locals, but what is available to the locals still has to be subdivided [because of] land inheritance.”

He explains that land subdivision has been driven by growth in population, land inheritance “as well as a shift from customary land tenures to land owned by individuals based on the belief that individuals can exploit the productive potential of land more effectively.”

According to a 2012 USAID report titled “Emerging Land Issues in Africa”, 25 percent of young adults who grew up in rural areas did not inherit land because there was no land to inherit.

“[People] just want to have a title deed even if it means subdividing the land to economically non-viable portions, while big investors are interested in high-value crops, particularly in horticulture, limiting available land for food crops,” Moshi says.

Smallholder farmers across Africa account for at least 75 percent of agricultural outputs, according to FAO.

“Small-scale farmers still produce more than big farms. Big farms often lie idle, investors hoard them for speculative purposes, they rarely grow food on this land,” Isaac Maiyo from Schemers, an agricultural community-based organisation in Kenya, tells IPS, explaining that 93 percent of farmers in Botswana are smallholders.

“They [smallholder farmers in Botswana] have less than eight percent percent of the agricultural land and they still account for nearly 100 percent of the country’s maize production,” he says.

- In the southern African nation of Zambia, 41.9 percent of farms comprise of less than one hectare of land, with at least 75 percent of small-scale farmers farming on less than two hectares.

- In Zambia, 616,867 farms, which are on average less than a hectare, produce about 300,000 metric tonnes of maize.
- In contrast there are 6,626 Zambian farms of between 10 to 20 hectares that produce 145,000 metric tonnes of maize.

Anthony Mokaya, of local NGO Kenya Lands Alliance, tells IPS that many countries on the continent are yet to establish laws that govern subdivision of agricultural land.

And while South Africa and Kenya have legislation on the subdivision of land, Mokaya says “the laws remain largely ineffective.”

While the Agriculture Act (Chapter 318) in Kenya categorically states that agricultural land should not be subdivided below 0.8 hectares, smallholder farmer Kibet says that “many farmers do not know that the law exists.”

“We subdivide not based on what the law says, but based on the number of dependents who want a share of available land, particularly where land inheritance is concerned,” Kibet explains.

South Africa’s Agricultural Land Act prevents the “subdivision of agricultural land to the extent where the new portions created are so small that farming will no longer be economically viable.”

South African land owners are prohibited by the act from subdividing agricultural land without consent from the [Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries](#).

But as is the case with many African countries, Moshi says that subdivision of agricultural land has not been guided by the law.

“The problem is not the act itself, but the implementation of it. Many land owners are not aware that there is a law that prohibits subdivision of agricultural land below a certain threshold.”

Amos Thiong’o from [Agri-ProFocus Kenya](#), a network of organisations working in agribusiness, tells IPS that extensive land subdivision is also affecting mechanisation of agriculture.

“Smaller farmlands will require very intensive production technologies, such as the hydroponic production where plants are grown in a mineral solution rather than in the soil,” he says, adding that some flower farms in Naivasha, Rift Valley were already using this technology “but it requires a lot of water.”

Titus Rotich, an agricultural extension officer in Kenya’s Rift Valley region, says “farmlands are becoming so small that with time, farming will no longer be economically viable.”

“Most families who, 10 to 20 years ago, had over 40 hectares now have to contend with less than a hectare. Meaning that the land is only used to set up a homestead, and to grow a few backyard vegetables and rear a few chickens,” Rotich tells IPS, explaining that previously a farmer could produce 28 to 38 90-kilogram maize bags on just 0.4 hectares of land.

“One such bag is sold at a significant amount of 35 to 50 dollars depending on the region. But many farmers are now lucky if they produce 20 bags because they have their homestead, their cows, chickens and so on the 0.4 hectares [and it is not solely used for farming],” he says. (IPS 10-09-2014)

ANGOLA IS LARGEST AFRICAN OIL SUPPLIER TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2014

Angola exported 131,000 barrels of oil per day to the United States in the first half of 2014, making it the largest sub-Saharan African supplier of oil products to the country ahead of Nigeria, according to official figures.

Data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed that daily oil deliveries from Angola to the United States ranged from a minimum of 94,000 barrels in January and maximum of 178,000 barrels in May.

In Nigeria, which is ahead of Angola in overall oil production in sub-Saharan Africa, saw deliveries to United States fluctuate between 59,000 barrels in February, and 187,000 barrels in April.

On average, the US market bought 113,300 barrels of oil per month from Nigeria in the first half, according to the EIA.

The data also reflects a general decline in American purchases of African oil, although Angola was able to minimise that drop and for the first time since 1973 overtook Nigeria in oil exports to the US market. Analysts have said that the development of alternatives to conventional petroleum technologies, such as shale gas, is behind the drop in African oil imports by the United States.

The biggest suppliers of oil to the United States in the first half of 2014 were Canada, Saudi Arabia and Mexico, and most of the oil purchased comes from countries that are not members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). (16-09-2014)

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS FOR WOMEN: PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS IN JORDAN AND MOROCCO

[“Skills for Success”](#) is a four-month programme, comprising 320 hours of training with four core components: English for the Workplace, Computer/IT Skills, Professional Skills and Job Search Strategies. The project’s content provides young, economically underprivileged women who have completed secondary education with the communication and job-related skills needed to access local labour markets. In addition, the programme increases participants’ knowledge of issues that affect women in the workplace and offers internship and job opportunities in local businesses, as well as resources to help them continue pursuing their goals beyond the programme.

The project was launched during the UfM “Women’s Socio-Economic Empowerment: Projects for Progress” conference, held in Barcelona on 26–27 March 2014. The Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs are co-funding its first phase. Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia will follow Morocco and Jordan shortly. (EU Neighbourhood 12-09-2014)

TAX REVENUES GROW IN MOZAMBIQUE

Tax revenues in Mozambique totalled 100.700 billion meticals in the period from January to August, with just one third left to meet the target set out in the country’s Amended Budget, according to figures presented by the president of the Tax Authority (AT), Rosario Fernandes.

The president of the AT said that in the first eight months of the year cumulative performance stood at 100.54 percent based on good performance in the period between May and August, where average performance was 102 percent.

Noting that tax revenues posted annual growth of 30.28 percent, Fernandes said these figures showed that Mozambique is moving towards reducing its dependence on external funding of the state budget.

The target for this year is tax revenue of up to 153.075 trillion meticals, according to the Amended Budget, following an adjustment from 147.372 trillion meticals mainly due to capital gains tax on the transfer of ownership of mining assets.

Cited by Mozambican newspaper O País, the AT president said that three tax collections units for large taxpayers would be set up in Matola, Pemba and Tete, in addition to those already open in Maputo, Beira and Nampula.

Large taxpayers currently account for 2.5 percent of all taxpayers but over 50 percent of all domestic taxes collected, which is expected to rise to at least 70 percent in the next two to three years. (16-09-2014)



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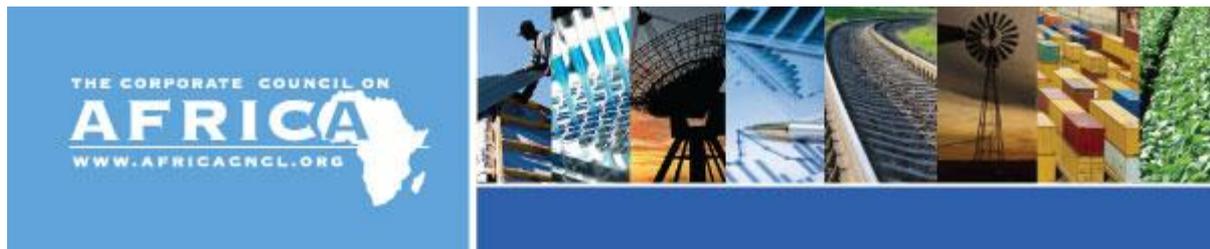


October 16 and 17, NABC together with the Africa Studies Center (ASC) will organize the 2nd edition of the conference **Africa Works!** 'Creating New Partnerships', bringing together the private sector, NGO's, knowledge institutes, and government bodies from both the Netherlands and Africa.

Again we expect 700+ individual participants to join, making Africa Works the biggest business oriented conference focusing on Africa in the Benelux.

If you require more information or have any questions do not hesitate to contact via www.africaworks.nl or africaworks@nabc.nl.

Click on the icon for more additional information.



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Luncheon in honor of H.E. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso

Thursday, September 25

Luncheon in honor of H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya

Friday, September 26

Luncheon in honor of H.E. Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi

Mark your calendars – **registration will open soon!**, or contact info@ebcam.org



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