

ECONOMIC GROWTH IN EAST AFRICA

According to latest figures from the IMF's World Economic Outlook, East Africa registered as the fastest growing economy in the sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region in 2016. The East African economy grew by 4.5 percent in 2016 and is expected to increase by 7.3 percent in 2017 and 8.9 percent by 2022, not adjusting for inflation (IMF, 2017). This is in contrast to a 7.0 percent decrease in 2016, an expected increase of 6.0 percent in 2017 and 5.8 percent by 2022 in SSA. The current economic growth outlook in East Africa is coupled with an increase in population and urbanization. East Africa is expected to reach nearly 600 million people by 2050, more than doubling its current population (Figure 1). Trade and agriculture are among various sectors that will be important in shaping this growth.

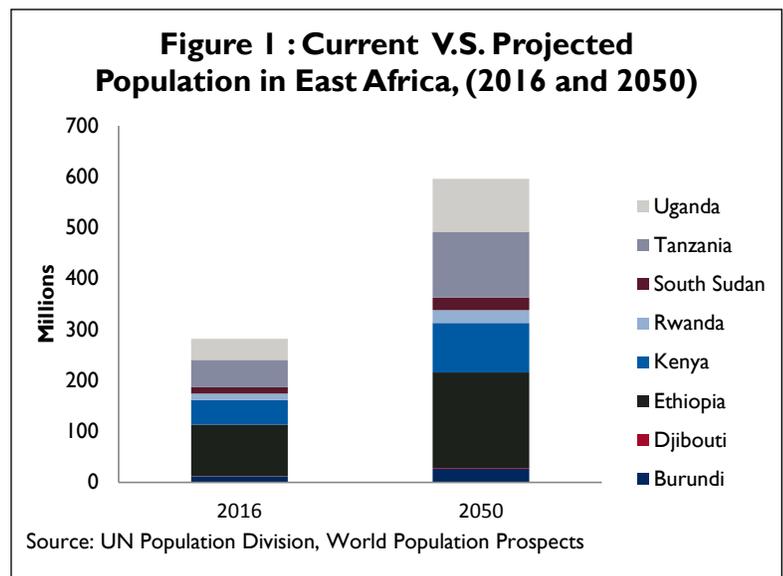
This analytical brief is intended to provide an overview of economic growth, trade, and agriculture in the East African countries of Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Somalia. Recent data for the countries of interest were not always available.

POPULATION GROWTH AND URBANIZATION

The current population of East Africa is expected to grow at a rapid pace. According to the UN's World Population Prospects, the population of East Africa is expected to grow from 282 million in 2016 to 596 million in 2050 (Figure 1).

East Africa is also young. The average median age for East African countries is 18 years old and on average more than 60 percent of persons in East African countries are below the age of 25 (UN Population Division, 2017).

Moreover, it is estimated that 55 percent of East Africa's population will be below the age of 25 by 2030 with a median age of 23 by the same year. This means that the majority of the East African population either already have or will go to school, college, or about to enter the workforce. This has major implications for the region. A young population can be an asset. It can provide: 1) a large tax base as the number of working-age individuals enter the economy, 2) an increase in the consumer economy as more young people enter the market, and 3) growth in manufacturing and service sectors as more people join the workforce (Royal Geographical Society, 2017). Therefore, it is of utmost importance that right policies, laws, and institutions are introduced in order to harness the demographic dividend (e.g. providing and improving education and employment opportunities).



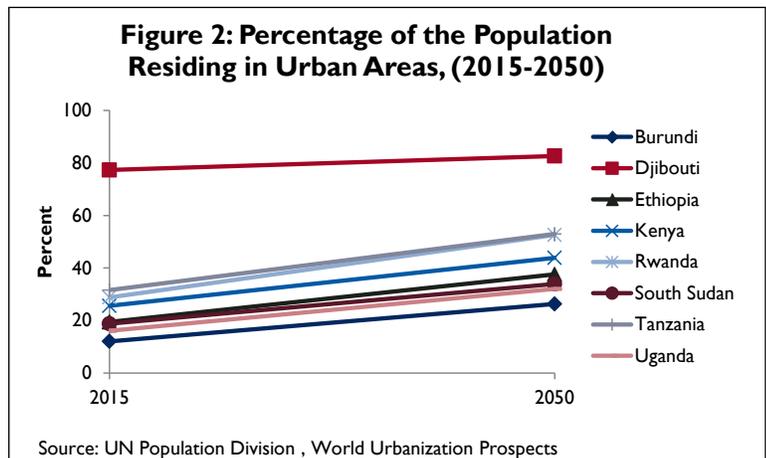
Urbanization

East Africa is experiencing urbanization at a rapid pace. Between 2015 and 2050, the number of East Africans moving

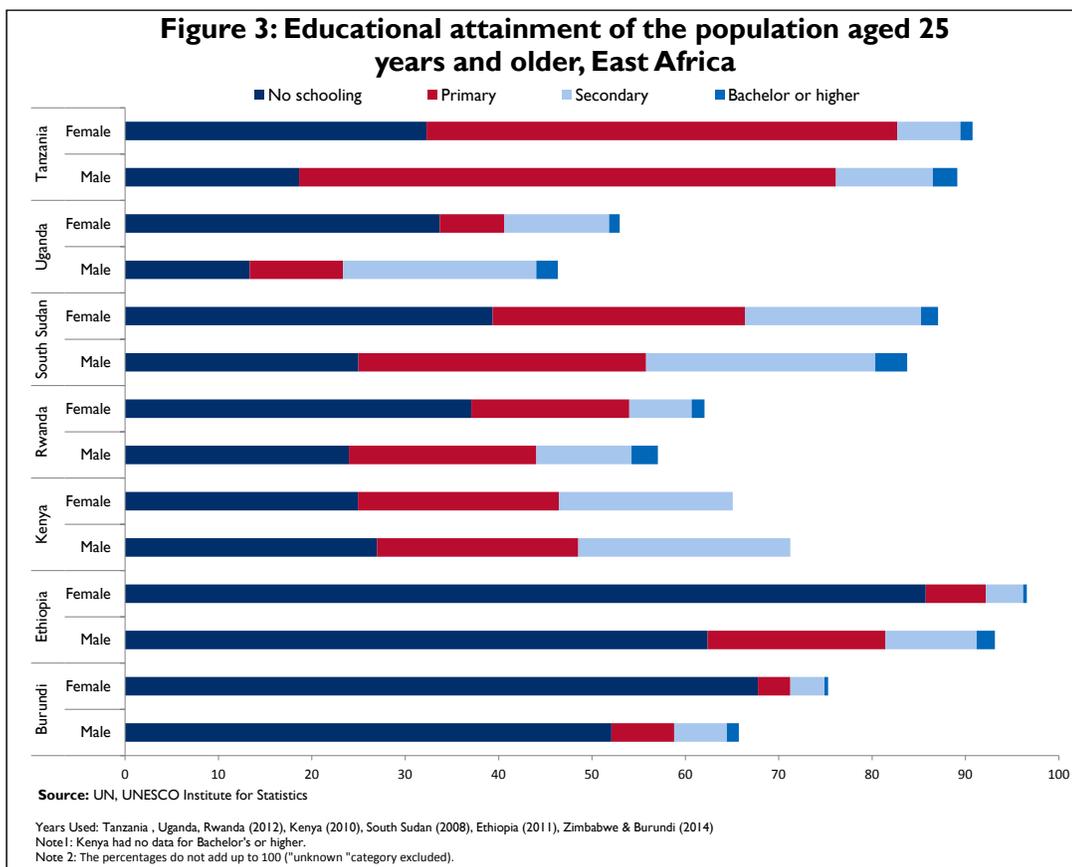
from rural to urban areas is expected to grow by 55.2 percent (Figure 2). Currently, in 2017, Djibouti has the highest rate of urban population among East African Countries at 78 percent and Burundi has the lowest at 13 percent. The extent to which East African countries prepare for this growth will help determine whether East Africa will see a net positive or negative effect of urbanization.

Human Capital

According to the latest figures by United Nation’s UNESCO Institute for Statistics, less than 5 percent of those aged 25 and older have a bachelor’s degree or higher in East Africa (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2017).



The majority of East African countries have a considerable percent of the population with no schooling. Among them, Burundi and Ethiopia are the worst. As of 2011, in Ethiopia, 85.7 percent of females and 62.4 percent of males of those aged 25 and above had no schooling. In Burundi, it was 67.8 percent for females and 52.1 percent for males within the same age group. With the exception of Kenya, in all of East Africa the percentage of females with no schooling is higher than males, showing a disparity in educational attainment among women and men. Part of the reason may be related to protracted conflicts and prevalence of cultural norms that discourage women from education. The conflicts and political crises of recent decades in Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan have negatively impacted women in general, particularly in their educational gains (Sherman, 2015).



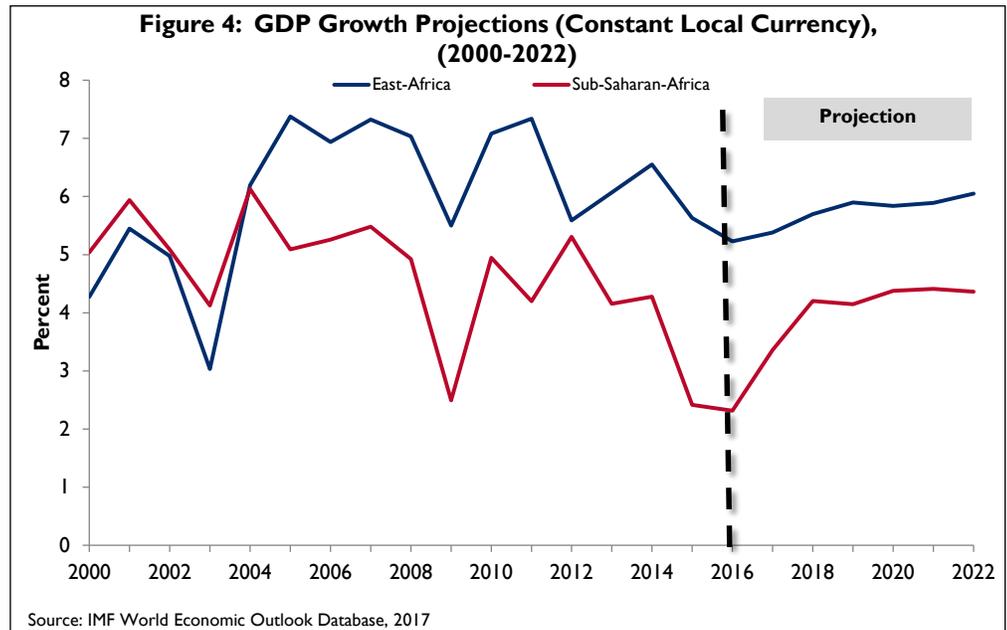
Of the East African countries, Burundi has the lowest record in terms of primary educational attainment. Only 3.5 percent of the female population over the age of 25 has completed primary education, compared to 6.7 percent of males. On the other hand, Tanzania has the highest at 50.4 percent for females and 57.5 percent for males.

In terms of secondary education, South Sudan and Kenya have the highest attainment across the East African countries. South Sudan has a secondary educational attainment of 18.9 percent for females

and 24.5 percent for males. South Sudan also has the highest percentage of females (1.8 percent) and males (3.4 percent) with a bachelor's degree or higher.

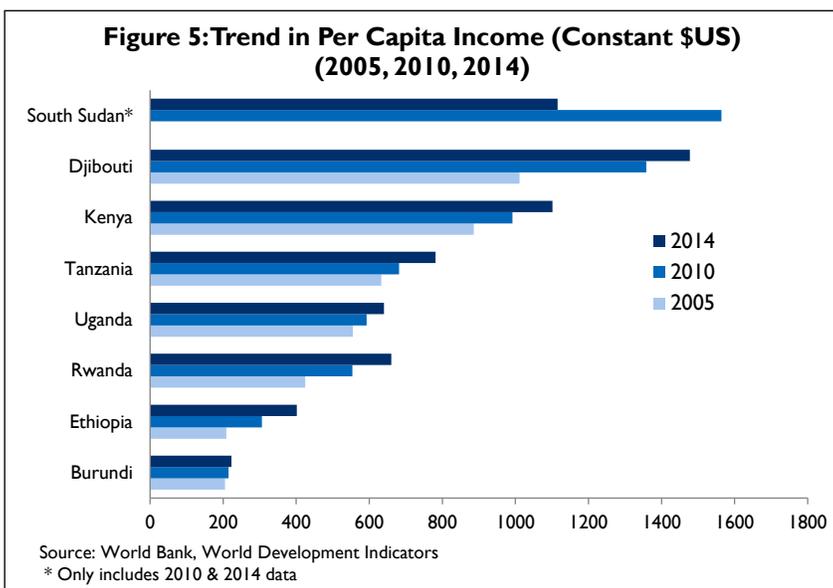
ECONOMIC GROWTH IN EAST AFRICA

East Africa is expected to grow by 7.3 percent in 2017, according to the latest projections from the IMF, not adjusting for inflation (IMF, 2017). According to the IMF, East African economies such as Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Djibouti, Uganda, and Kenya are expected to grow by more than 40 percent by 2022 compared with their GDP in 2016, adjusting for inflation. These countries are expected to be the main drivers of GDP growth in East Africa. Furthermore, Ethiopia and Rwanda are expected to double their economic growth by 2022. From



2016 to 2022, Ethiopia's GDP is expected to grow by 53.7 percent, the largest increase in the East African region. In the same time period, Rwanda is expected to grow by 51.0 percent. On the other hand, countries that are expected to have the least growth by 2022 are Burundi (2.1 percent) and South Sudan (13.6 percent).

Since 2004, East Africa has outgrown the rest of SSA. Countries that make up the East African region as a whole are expected to grow larger compared to countries that make up SSA. By 2022, East Africa is expected to grow 1.7 percentage points more than SSA. From 2016 to 2022, East Africa is expected to grow from 5.2 percent to 6.1 percent a year, while in the same time period, SSA as a whole is expected to grow from 2.3 percent to 4.4 percent a year (IMF, World Economic Outlook, 2017)



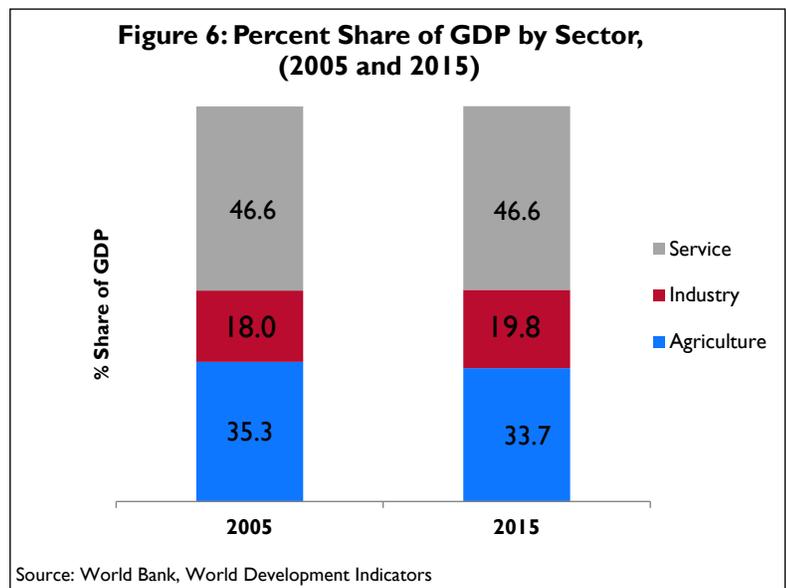
Despite a growing economy, significant differences remain among East African countries when it comes to income per capita. Burundi remains the poorest country in the region. It had a GDP per capita of \$222.3 in 2014 compared with South Sudan's \$1115.1 and Rwanda's \$660.1; two countries with population figures similar to Burundi's. Overall, GDP per capita is on the rise for the East African countries, with the exception being South Sudan. On the other hand, Djibouti has the highest GDP per capita as of 2014 (Figure 5).

South Sudan is the most oil-dependent economy in the world, with oil making an estimated

60 percent of the country's entire GDP (World Bank, 2016). It is possible that the decrease in GDP per capita in South Sudan between 2010 and 2014 is due to the drop in oil prices and internal conflict in the same time period (African Development Bank, 2017). Djibouti has the highest GDP per capita in the region.

From 2005 to 2015 the share of GDP in agriculture across East Africa fell slightly, while the share of GDP in industry rose, and service sector remained steady at 46.6 percent (Figure 6).

With the exception of Kenya and Tanzania, the share that agriculture constitutes of the GDP decreased in East African countries, while that of service increased. In Kenya, the agriculture share of GDP actually increased by 6.1 from 2005 to 2015, while the share of service decreased by 5.6 percentage points in the same time period. Agriculture is the main export earner and employer, accounting for roughly two-thirds of all trade and supporting 80 percent of the rural population (Oxford Business Group, 2017).



On the other hand, all of the other East African countries increased their overall share of the service sector as a percentage of the economy. The top three countries with the largest increase in the service sector as a share of GDP were Uganda (5.9 percentage points), Burundi (2.4 percentage points), and Rwanda (1.7 percentage points).

STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN EAST AFRICA

Measuring the state of a country's democracy is difficult. Several dimensions have to be examined together, in order to get a complete picture of the state of democracy in East African countries. The Economist Intelligence Unit's annual "Democracy Index" offers one avenue. The Index recognizes four types of regimes ordered from worse to best: Authoritarian regime, Hybrid regime, Flawed democracy, and Full democracy. According to the latest annual data in 2016, the majority of the East African countries were classified as Authoritarian (57.1 percent), followed by Hybrid regimes (42.9 percent).

From 2006 to 2016, most of the East African countries' Democracy Index Score remained relatively unchanged, with two trends worth noting. First, Burundi declined significantly since 2006. It went down from an overall score of 4.5 in 2006 to 2.4 in 2016 (0-10, higher is better). On the other hand, Tanzania has seen an upward rise in almost all of the dimensions. It increased from an overall score of 3.93 in 2006 to 5 in 2016. However, when comparing the East African country scores on the Democracy Index with those of the rest of the world, there is a significant gap that needs to be closed before the region can be labeled as democratic and at par with high ranking countries such as Mauritius (ranked 18th).

Moreover, corruption seems to be the common theme when comparing several corruption indicators across the East African countries. According to the Corruption Perception Index released by Transparency International, corruption continues to blight the East African region. In 2016, 71.4 percent of the East African countries are perceived to be more corrupt than they were in 2012. According to the Corruption Perception Index (0-100, higher is less corrupt), as of 2016, South Sudan (11) and Burundi (20) were the most corrupt countries, while the least corrupt

country in East Africa was Ethiopia (34). Nevertheless, all of the East African country scores fall well below the world average (Transparency International, 2017).

One of the ways in which corruption manifests itself in the society is through the prevalence of bribery. According to World Bank's Enterprise Surveys, one of the biggest obstacles facing firms in East African countries is bribery. With the exception of Rwanda, the percentage of firms identifying bribery as a major obstacle has increased over the years across all East African countries. As of 2013, Djibouti (12.6 percent) and Kenya (12.3 percent) rank the highest when it comes to the percent of firms identifying bribery as a major obstacle. From 2007 to 2014 in Burundi, the percentage has gone up by 9.4 points.

Countries where the percent of firms identifying bribery is the lowest are: Rwanda (0.5 percent as of 2011), Tanzania (2.5 percent as of 2013), and Uganda (2.6 percent as of 2013) (World Bank, 2017a).

STATE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN EAST AFRICA

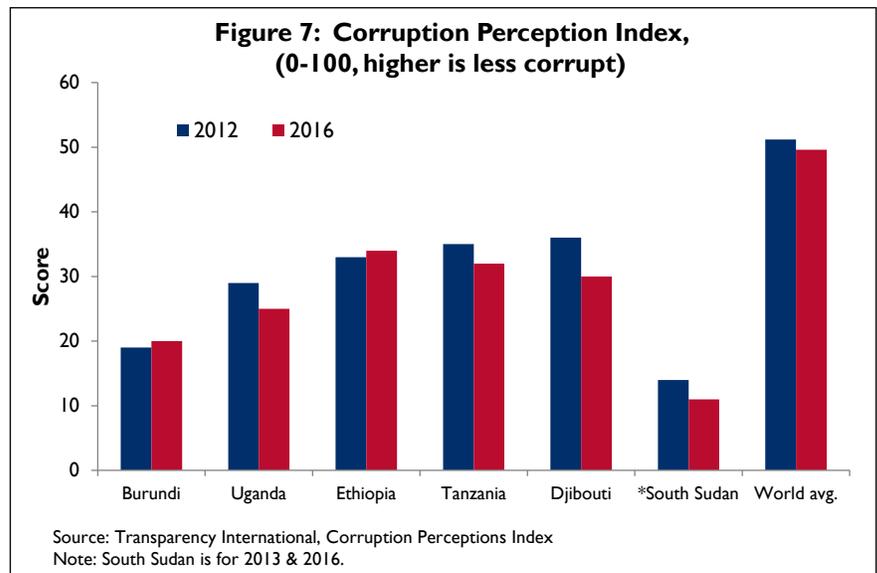
The Logistics Performance Index (LPI) is a tool created by the World Bank in order to help the countries in "identifying the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance" (World Bank, 2017b). The index is further divided into an international and a domestic one. The international LPI ranks countries based on six specific dimensions, among which quality of trade and transport related infrastructure (e.g. ports, railroads, roads, and information technology) is possibly the most important dimension in East Africa. This is because most of the East African countries suffer from poor infrastructure that inhibits their ability to trade adequately.

In 2016, Somalia was ranked among one of the worst performers (158 out of 160). Burundi (107), Ethiopia (126), and Djibouti (134), also ranked poorly in terms of overall ranking (World Bank, 2017b).

With the exception of Kenya, which has constructed major railroads recently, the East African region scored very poorly, 2.41 (1-5, higher is better), when it comes to infrastructure score, none of the East Africa countries scored higher than 3. However, East African countries across the board have improved since 2007. For example, Rwanda jumped from a score of 1.53 for infrastructure in 2007 to 2.62 in 2016.

According to the Enterprise Survey, in 2014, 15.2 percent of firms in East Africa identified transportation to be a major constraint to their daily operations. In Kenya, in 2013, the number was 21.6 percent, down 9 percent from 2007 (World Bank, 2017a).

Another major obstacle in the overall operation of the firms is electricity. According to the Enterprise Survey, the majority of the firms in East African countries unanimously agree that electricity is a severe obstacles to their everyday operation. For example, as of 2014, 58.7 percent of firms in South Sudan identified electricity to be a major obstacle, the highest in the region. Aside from South Sudan, other East African countries that consider electricity to be



a major obstacle to their operation are: Burundi (47 percent in 2014), Djibouti (47.3 percent in 2013), and Tanzania (45.8 percent in 2013). Although a major constraint, the percent of firms identifying electricity as major constraint has gone down considerably since 2006. For example, in 2006, 84.2 percent of firms considered electricity to be a major constraint in Uganda. That number has gone down to 26.8 percent by 2013. Similarly, 88.4 percent of Tanzanian firms considered electricity as major constraint in 2006, which has now gone down to 45.8 percent, a decrease of 42.6 percentage points (World Bank, 2017a). Nevertheless, there is still room for further improvement in the overall energy sector, particularly electricity.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT TRENDS IN EAST AFRICA

Total trade (exports plus imports) in the East African region expanded by about \$8 billion to \$99.9 billion between 2013 and 2014. The East Africa region expanded its exports by \$3.5 billion from 2013 to 2014 (a 12.3 percent increase), while in the same time period, its imports increased by \$4.5 billion (7.1 percent) (World Bank, 2017c). As seen in Figure 8, imports constitute the bigger portion of the total trade. In 2014, imports made up 67.5 percent of total trade and 55.9 percent of total trade expansion.

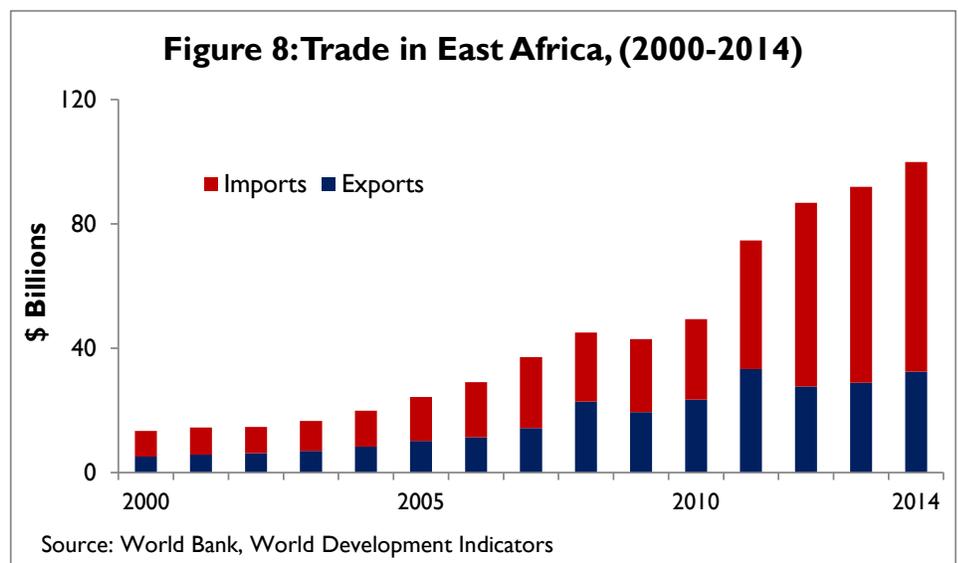
The leading export and import products across several of the East African countries seem to be similar. Food (63.1 percent) and manufactured commodities (21.3 percent) constitute the largest portion of the exports in the majority of the East African countries. On the import side, agricultural raw materials and manufactured commodities constitute the largest portion of the total imports in the East African countries. While manufacturing constitutes the largest portion of imports by volume (66 percent), fuel imports account for the largest portion of imports by value (\$12.7 billion) (World Bank, 2017c).

Coffee, tea, and spices constituted the largest portion of commodity exports with the exception of Tanzania (precious minerals) in 2015. The total value of coffee, tea and spice exports from these East African countries (including Tanzania) is \$3.2 billion. On the other hand, the total value of fuel imports for the East African countries is \$18.7 billion, with Tanzania importing \$7.5 billion (39.8 percent) of the total fuel imports (UN Comtrade, 2017). East Africa has had many major trading partners, including the United States. However, over the years, China has overtaken the

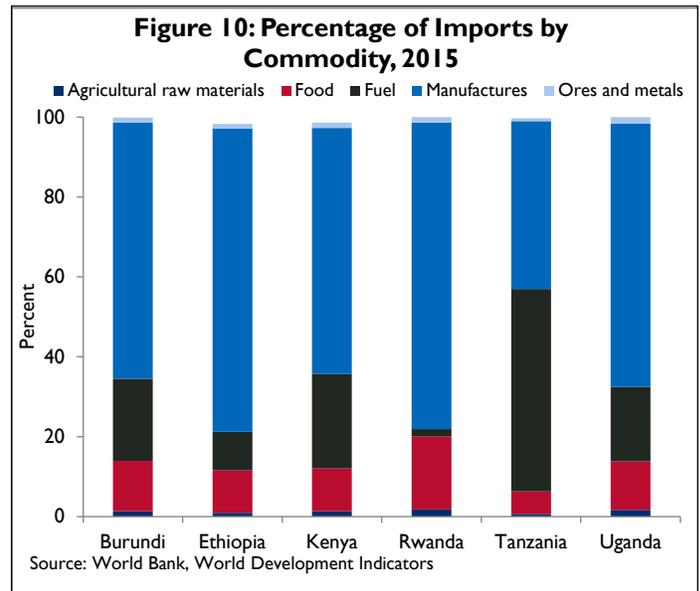
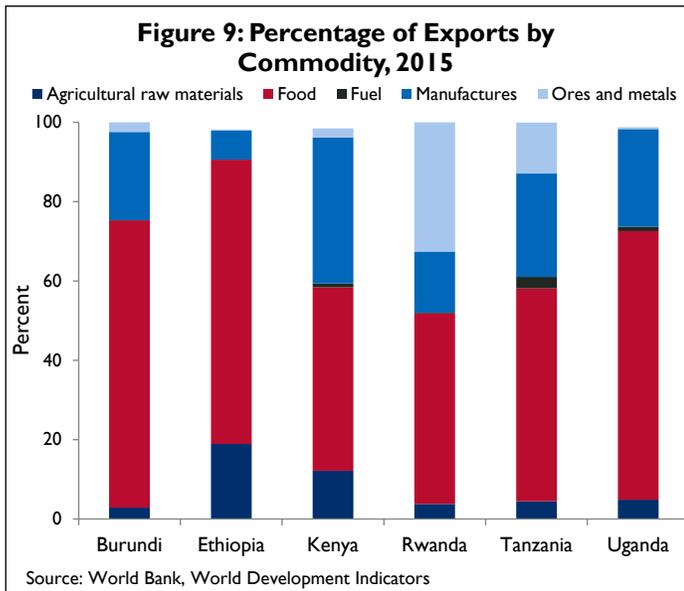
United States as a bigger trade partner to Eastern Africa (Figure 11 and 12).

From 2000 to 2014, imports from the United States increased from \$535.7 million dollars to \$3.9 billion dollars, while imports from China increased from \$351.1 million dollars to \$13.8 billion dollars. In the same period, exports to China from East African countries increased from \$6.5 million to \$5.5 billion dollars, and exports to the United States increased from \$81.7 million to \$825.1 million dollars.

Foreign Direct Investment in East Africa has increased from \$728 million in 2004 to \$5.9 billion in 2014. The top

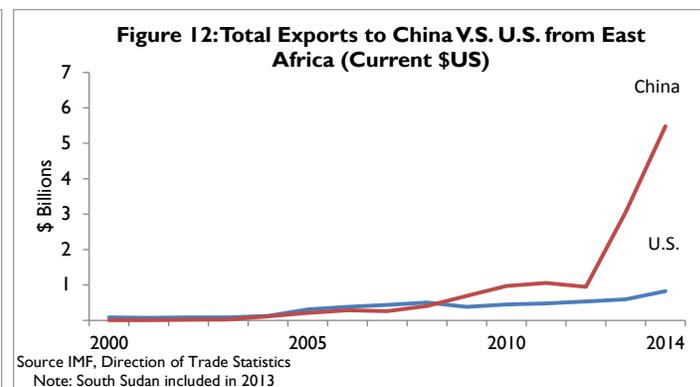
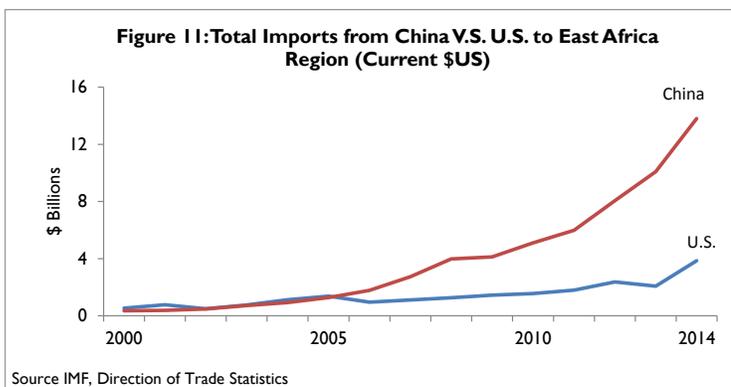


three destinations are Tanzania (40.9 percent of total FDI to East Africa), Uganda (25.1 percent), and Ethiopia (17.4 percent). The two bottom destinations are Burundi (0.2 percent) and Somalia (2.7 percent) (UNCTAD, 2017).

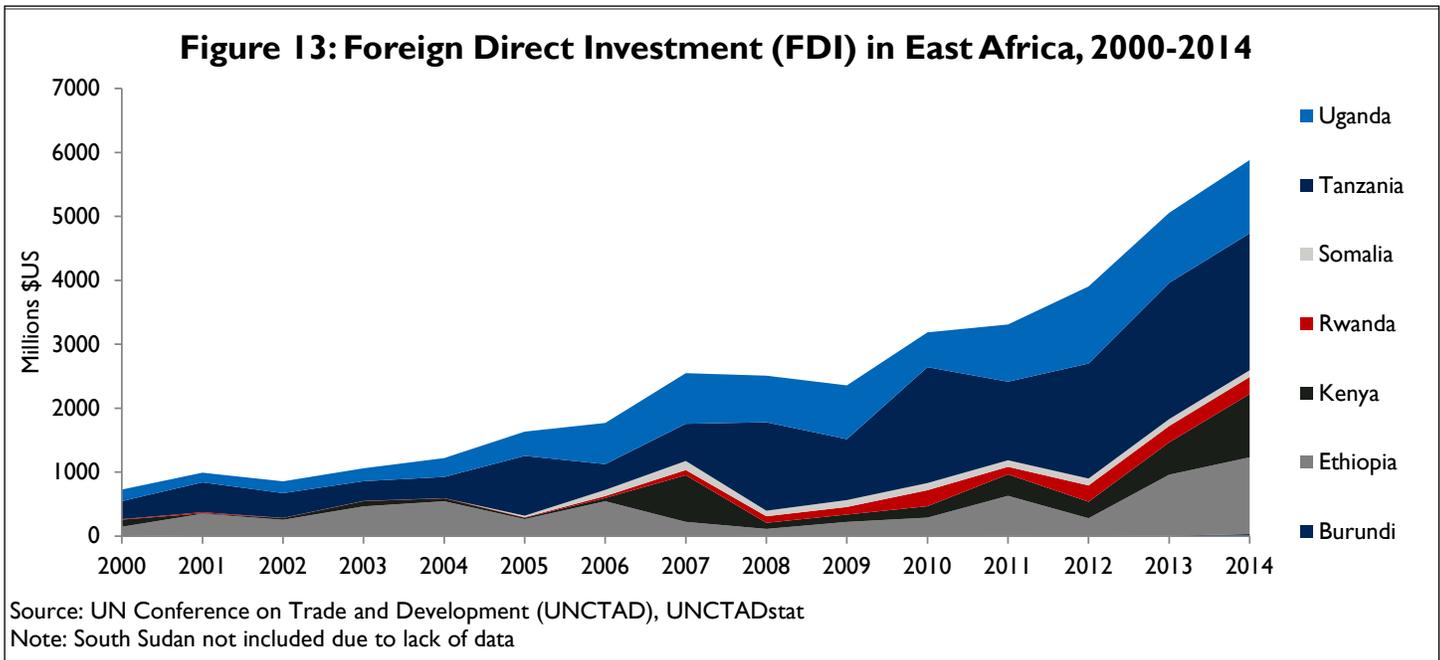


There is variability among East African countries on how receptive they are to the flow of investment capital. The Investment Freedom Index by The Heritage Foundation evaluates several regulatory restrictions that inhibit investment and deduces points (from 100) for each of the restrictions imposed in a country. Therefore, a higher score means that individuals and firms are allowed to move their resources internally and across borders with fewer restrictions.

As of 2017, Djibouti has the highest investment freedom (80, 0-100 higher is better), while Ethiopia (20) is the lowest rated country in terms of investment freedom. On average, East Africa as a region has a rating of 55, an indication that there is still room for improvement (Heritage Foundation, 2017).



While many countries have identified East Africa as a region to invest in, none has done so more than China. According to China Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS-CARI) in the years between 2000 and 2011, China has backed more than 1700 projects across 50 African countries at a total cost of \$75 billion dollars (Morlin-Yron, 2017).



SPOTLIGHT: EAST AFRICA TRADE & INVESTMENT HUB

Launched in 2013, the USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub's purpose is to boost trade and investment within Africa (mainly the East African Community countries). The main focus area of the project is to work with private sector and local governments to create a pro-investment environment by solving constraints that inhibit trade and investment. The ultimate goal is to deepen regional integration, increase the competitiveness of selected regional agricultural value chains and bolster regional trade in staple foods, and promote two-way trade with the United States through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The duration of the initiative is from September 2014 until August of 2019 with an overall funding of \$65 million. To date, among many other accomplishments, the project has created 29,000 new jobs, produced \$141 million in exports through AGOA, and has created \$26 million of new private sector investment. The project spans many East African countries, such as Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, with AGOA related support in Ethiopia (USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub, 2017).

AGRICULTURE IN EAST AFRICA

As of 2016, 76.8 percent of the total population in East Africa lives in rural areas and depends heavily on agriculture for their livelihood. In countries like Burundi, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda, more than 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas. Burundi has the highest percentage of rural population at 87.6 percent, while Djibouti has the lowest percentage of rural population at 22.6 percent (UN Population Division, World Urbanization Prospects, 2017).

Land Use

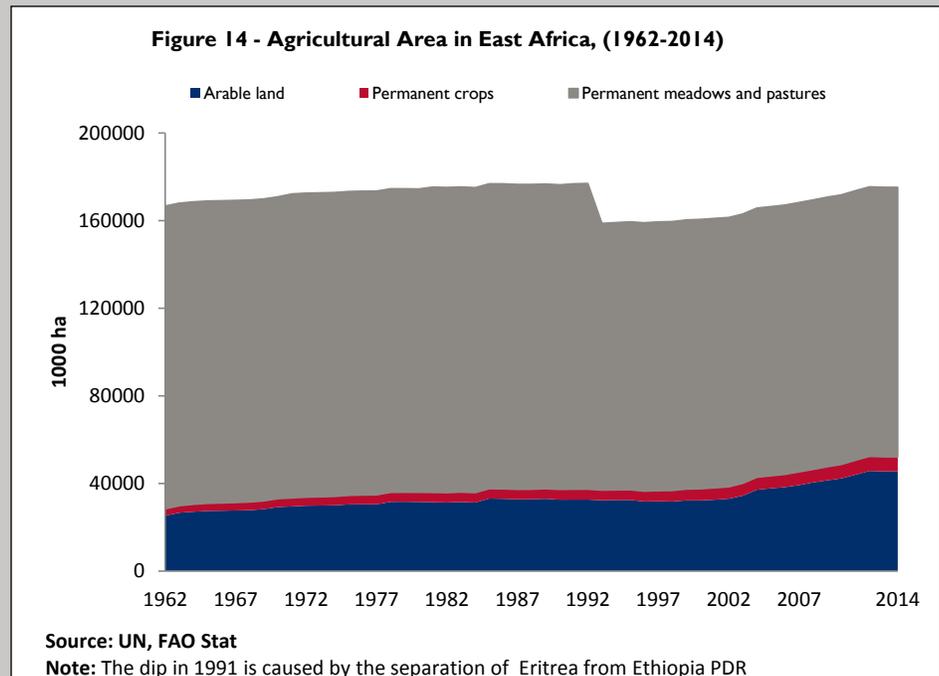
According to the latest figures in 2014, agriculture makes up 50.7 percent of the total land area in East Africa. The total agricultural area is defined as the sum of arable land, permanent crops, and permanent meadows and pastures by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Of the total agricultural area, arable land makes up 25.9 percent of the total agricultural land, while permanent crops and permanent meadows and pastures make up 3.8 percent and 70.3 percent of the total agricultural area, respectively (UN FAOstat, 2017).

What are the differences between arable land, permanent crops, and permanent pastures?

- **Arable Land:** Land under temporary crops (double-cropped areas are counted only once), temporary meadows for mowing or pasture, land under market and kitchen gardens and land temporarily fallow (less than five years). The abandoned land resulting from shifting cultivation is not included in this category. Data for arable land are not meant to indicate the amount of land that is potentially cultivable;

- **Permanent Crops:** Land cultivated with crops that occupy the land for long periods and need not be replanted after each harvest, such as cocoa, coffee, and rubber; this category includes land under flowering shrubs, fruit trees, nut trees and vines, but excludes land under trees grown for wood or timber;

- **Permanent Pastures:** Land used permanently (five years or more) for herbaceous forage crops, either cultivated or growing wild (wild prairie or grazing land) (UN FAOstat, 2017).



Main Commodities

As of 2014, the top seven production crops in East Africa were maize, cassava, potatoes, rice, wheat, beans, and millet, with an estimated gross production value of \$12.5 billion. Maize and cassava have historically been important for East African domestic consumption and have surpassed all of the other major crops in terms of total production.

Since 2001, maize has been the highest grossing production value crop in East Africa. Maize production increased from 15.7 million tonnes in 2001 to 30.7 million tonnes in 2014, an increase of 94.9 percent. At the same time, the gross production value of maize increased from \$2.1 billion to \$4.5 billion, an increase of 104.8 percent. Countries that drive maize production up in East Africa are Ethiopia and Tanzania. Together, Tanzania and Ethiopia make up 45.2 percent of the total 30.7 million tonnes of maize produced in 2014 (UNFAO 2017).

Between 2011 and 2012, East Africa experienced the harshest drought since 1995, mainly in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti, Uganda and other neighboring countries. The drought affected all of the major crops in East Africa, but maize production remained relatively stable. This is because maize production is present largely in Ethiopia and Tanzania, and maize production during the drought years was steady. In that period, Ethiopia's maize production increased by only 1.5 percent compared with a 21.7 percent increase in the previous year. However, the drought did not affect much of Tanzania and as such; maize production went up by 17.6 percent. This is in contrast with other major crops, all of which significantly decreased during the drought period, including cassava (UN FAOstat, 2017).

Cassava is the second highest gross production value crop in East Africa. Its gross production value has increased

from \$2.2 billion in 2001 to \$3.5 billion in 2014, an increase of 57.4 percent. Cassava is considered the second most important food staple (after maize) in terms of caloric intake. It has traditionally been highly desirable as it is tolerant to droughts (International Fund for Agricultural Development, 2005). However, despite being drought tolerant, cassava production was negatively affected by the serious drought that occurred between 2011 and 2012. In that time period, cassava production decreased by 10.8 percent, a stark contrast from its' previous year increase of 4.6 percent. Gross production value decreased by 10.4 percent compared with an increase of 5.9 percent the previous year. One of the reasons why cassava production decreased is because of the late arrival and subsequent inadequate amount of pastoral rains in late April and May in 2011. The crops grown during this period are typically planted in March and or April when the first rains of the year fall (Earth Observatory, 2013).

Agricultural Productivity

With the exception of Uganda (25.8 percent), agriculture constitutes more than 30 percent of the economy of most East African countries. Moreover, agriculture constitutes an even bigger pie of the economy in countries such as Burundi (43 percent), and Ethiopia (41 percent), where more than 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas and rely heavily on agriculture for their livelihood (World Bank, 2017c). Nevertheless, share of agriculture as percent of GDP has fallen across the East African countries (Figure 6) and agricultural productivity remains low.

One way of looking at agriculture productivity is by examining the monetary value added per worker. According to the World Bank, as of 2015, the value added per worker across East African countries is quite low compared with other SSA countries. For example, Kenya, which has the highest agriculture value added per worker (\$820.7) of all East African countries, is still quite low when comparing with countries such as Mauritius (\$9,653.1 per worker). This is specially a problem in countries such as Burundi; where agriculture as percentage of GDP is the highest, while worker productivity is the lowest (\$229 value added per worker).

CONCLUSION

The East African population is growing rapidly. It is expected to reach 596 million people by the middle of the twenty first century (Figure 1). Moreover, an estimated 55 percent of the population will be below the age of 25 by 2030. This population growth, coupled with the expected increase in urbanization rates (55.2 percent by 2050) will be important factors in shaping the future of East Africa.

The East African countries are also expected to grow economically, although at different rates. GDP per capita has increased over the years and with few exceptions (mainly Kenya), the share of service and industry as a percentage of GDP is also increasing across the East African countries.

Agriculture will continue to be important in the lives of East Africans, particularly to the rural population who rely heavily on agriculture for their livelihood. Crops such as maize and cassava will continue to be important crops in East African countries, especially with advents of droughts.

Trade and investment will also play important roles in shaping East Africa. Total trade has increased from \$160 billion to \$170 billion between 2013 and 2014, with food, manufactured commodities, and agricultural raw material constituting the biggest portion of the total trade. In addition to trade, East Africa has also seen an increase in the amount of foreign direct investment, especially with China.

Nevertheless, obstacles remain. Among the many obstacles that inhibit the ability of the firms to operate adequately is poor transport infrastructure and lack of access to electricity. In South Sudan for example, as of 2014, 58.7 percent of firms identified electricity to be a major obstacle to their daily operation (World Bank, 2017a).

Finally, corruption continues to blight the continent. As of 2014, East Africa is perceived to be more corrupt than

it was in 2012. According World Bank's Enterprise Survey, bribery, which is one of the indicators of corruption, is considered to be one of the major obstacles in allowing firms to operate efficiently.

With a population poised to double by 2050, the decisions and policies made by various institutions are going to be critical in shaping the future of East Africa.

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To access the data, please visit the EADS International Data & Economic Analysis (IDEA) website at idea.usaid.gov.

DISCLAIMER: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) or the United States Government.

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