

MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE ET DES FINANCES

Regional Economic Perspectives in East Africa and the Indian Ocean



Service Economique Régional de Nairobi

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Covid-19 crisis and Ukraine war effects on GDP growth

Economic slowdown in 2022

ITESOT

The IMF (WEO – April 2022) forecasts a **slowdown in GDP growth in 2022 in the EAIO** (+4,5% in 2022 vs +5,5% in 2021), except for Burundi, Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros

Downward revisions of growth in EAIO in 2022 (+4,5% vs +6,1% WEO October)

Since then, several downside risks (War in Ukraine)



GDP growth

Commodity prices rising because of the Ukraine war

Rising oil and natural gas prices

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- Brent crude oil is expected to reach an average of \$100 per barrel in 2022: an increase of +42% compared to 2021 (the highest level since 2013).
 - Impact on production prices.
 - Implementation of subsidies by some governments in the region to keep prices stable (Kenya, Tanzania...).
- Natural gas index in August: 453, or +249% YoY
- US natural gas price in August: \$8.79/mmbtu, +117% YoY; +21% vs. July; +89% vs. February



Evolution of Brent oil and natural gas (US)

Source: World Bank

Commodity prices rising because of the Ukraine war

A fall in the price of food and fertilizers, but still above their historical average

- According to the World Bank, **wheat prices** will increase by **+43%** in 2022.
- This increase has already begun with the **Covid-19 crisis**, the **disruption of supply chains**, and is fueled at the local level by **droughts** and **floods**.
- Food price index in 08/2022: 136 (+11% YoY)
- Fertilizers price index in 08/2022: 210 (+61% YoY)



Evolution of edible oils and cereals (\$/mt)



Source: World Bank

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Generalized rise in inflation

A global rise in inflation in 2022

- Advanced economies: +5,7%
- Emerging economies: +8,7%

Acceleration in the 2nd semester in EAIO

Kenya: +8.5% yoy in August
Rwanda: +15.9% yoy in August
Uganda: +9.0% yoy in August
Ethiopia: +32.5 yoy August – stable / July
Sudan: +117.4% yoy August vs +125% July



Inflation (yearly average)

Source: IMF – WEO April 2022



Generalized rise in inflation

What are the impacts?

- **Economic slowdown:** contraction of the consumption, even more if local monetary policies tighten (tradeoff between prices and growth)
- **Rising debt:** subventions on fuel (Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti) and fertilizers increase public debt higher interest rates
- **Rising poverty:** inflationary pressures on vulnerable populations, already affected by the pandemic
- **Risk of famine and social tensions:** rising food prices + drop in agricultural production (droughts) + decrease in imports





Central Bank rates (%)

Inflation (YoY, %)

Trésor DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE A depreciation trend against the USD since the pandemic, which could increase in 2022

Depreciation of other currencies against USD (08/2022 vs 01/2020):

- **Kenya:** -18.8%
- **Tanzania:** -1.8%
- **Ethiopia:** -63.9%
- **Rwanda:** -11.4%
- **Uganda:** -4.1%
- **Mauritius:** -22,5%
- **Comoros:** -9.3%

Between January and August 2022, only the Seychelles rupee appreciated against the USD (+5.5%) Tension on foreign exchange reserves for fixed exchange regimes (Sudan before, Ethiopia, Burundi...).

US inflation → Tightening of FED monetary policy → USD appreciation → More depreciation of emerging currencies Evolution of the exchange rate against the USD (B100 = 2019/1)



The war will affect already deteriorated debt situations

Rises in general government gross debt in 2022 (% of GDP)



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• **Sudan:** 248.1% (+99.8pp)



Debt sustainability in EAIO



What are the risks on the external debt?

- **Reallocation of international assets** → global **monetary tightening**
- Increase in the risk premium on the bond markets → increase in the cost of commercial debt
- Risk of depreciation of emerging currencies against the USD → rise in debt service

Chinese debt in East Africa

China represents a **significative share of the external debt** of Djibouti (56%), Kenya and Uganda (25%), Ethiopia (24%), and debt-to-China exceeds the 8% of GDP in these countries.

The share of China in debt service exceeds the 50%:

• Djibouti: USD111 mln

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- Ethiopia: USD527 mln
- Kenya: USD1035 mln
- Uganda: USD179 mln

China claimed to have cancelled 23 loans for 17 African countries and announced a transfer of USD10 bns of Chinese IMF reserves to Africa. But, it seems that the alleviation amounts to only \$45 mln to \$610 mln, or about 1% of what the continent owes China.









Still a lot of downside risks

There are many global or localized risks:

- Rising **social tensions**, fueled in particular by **inflationary pressures**. Aggravating factors:
 - Kenya (cut in subsidies fuel and flour)
 - Ethiopia (conflict in Tigray / Common Framework)
 - Sudan (political situation bogged down)
 - Somalia (post election tensions)
 - Djibouti (renegotiation of the Chinese debt?)
- Economic slowdown worsening in China after the 0 covid policy (regular lockdowns), including in manufacturing hubs. A Chinese slowdown would reduce demand for exports from many middle and low income countries and could disrupt their supply of goods.
- New export restrictions that would fuel higher food prices. For example, Indonesia, the world's largest producer of palm oil, has announced an export ban on this product. Indonesia provides nearly 70% of Kenya's palm oil imports.
- While the pandemic has exacerbated the upward trend in external indebtedness of emerging countries, a faster than expected tightening of monetary policy in advanced economies, coupled with non-credible fiscal frameworks, could lead to a crisis of market confidence, widespread capital outflows and simultaneous debt crises in different countries.
- The effects of climate change on crops, productivity, destruction of infrastructure...



Kenya – High risk of (external) debt: The new President under pressure

A resilient economy despite the crisis

- Main economy in the EAIO region and strong rebound in 2021 (+7.2% GDP ٠ growth). Economic recovery should go on in 2022 (+5.7%).
- High inflation but temporary and monetary tightening (7.5%; +50bp yoy) ٠
- Depreciation of the KES vs USD but appreciation vs EUR ٠
- Rising unemployment rate (5.7% in 2021 vs 5% in 2019) ٠

William Ruto's program to tackle the country's challenges...

- End of subventions on fuel and electricity, re-introduction of subventions on ٠ fertilizers (cost estimated at USD50 mls)
- Implementation of the « hustler fund » ٠
- End of the restriction of customs clearance in Nairobi that will be allowed in • Mombasa \rightarrow Reduction of the SGR use (and revenues) for transporting goods

... and the debt burden.

- Public debt has exceeded 70% of GDP; more than half is external debt (36%), ٠ despite strong fiscal performance and tax revenues
- **Increase in debt service**, which accounted for 58% of revenue in FY2021/22 • and would reach 60% of revenue in FY2023/23 (≈ USD11bns)
- China: 18.8% of external debt and 21.7% of external debt service •
- **Rising spread:** eurobonds yields +47.2bp (week ending 22 sept.) and 2024 ٠ maturity +83.2bp (15.7% vs 11% in May 2022).



Economy		2019	2020	2021	2022
GDP growth	%	5,0	-0,3	7,2	5,7
GDP	Bns USD	100,5	101,3	109,8	114,7
GDP/capita	USD	2111,4	2080,0	2204,7	2252,0
Inflation	Average %	5,2	5,3	6,1	7,2
Public finances					
Fiscal Balance	% GDP	-7,4	-8,1	-8,1	-6,9
Primary Balance	% GDP	-3,8	-4,2	-3,9	-2,5
Revenue	% GDP	17,0	16,6	16,8	17,4
Expenditure	% GDP	24,4	24,7	24,9	24,3
Public debt	% GDP	58,6	67,6	68,1	70,3
External situation					
Current account	% GDP	-5,3	-4,7	-5,4	-5,8
Export G&S	delta	-0,7	-14,0	9,5	12,4
Import G&S	delta	3,2	-5,9	12,1	2,0
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Tanzania – Progressive recovery post-pandemic

The economic activity has stagnated since the pandemic

- GDP growth has lost **-2pp** since 2019 and stagnates just below the +5%, because of the lack of tourism, fuel and food inflation and disruptions in the fertilizers market.
- Inflation rises progressively (+4.4% in 2022;+5.4% in 2023).

But, the fiscal situation improves with post-pandemic recovery

- The fiscal deficit widened in FY2020/21 by 2 GDP points as a result of lower revenues (-1.3pp) and higher expenditures (+0.7pp).
- In FY2021/22, fiscal deficit is **expected to narrow** from -3.9% of GDP to -2.8% of GDP: revenues up of 1.1 GDP point and spendings up of 0.2 GDP point

Still moderate risk on the public debt

- In August, the IMF has approved the 40-month arrangement under the extended credit facility (USD 1,05 bln) – USD 151.7 mln to be disbursed immediately for macroeconomic recovery and reforms implementation
- Public debt could reach 42.2 % of GDP in FY2021/22 (39.7 % of GDP FY2020/21)
- Moderate risk of external debt distress and moderate risk of overall public debt distress, with some space to absorb shocks.

Economy		2019	2020	2021	2022
GDP growth	%	7,0	4,8	4,9	4,8
GDP	Bns USD	60,8	64,4	70,3	77,5
GDP/capita	USD	1079,7	1110,4	1176,6	1260,1
Inflation	Average %	3,4	3,3	3,7	4,4
Public finances					
Budg. Balance	% GDP	-2,0	-2,5	-3,3	-3,3
Primary Balance	% GDP	-0,3	-0,9	-1,7	-1,7
Revenue	% GDP	14,6	14,6	14,6	15,4
Expenditure	% GDP	16,6	17,1	17,9	18,7
Public debt	% GDP	39,0	40,5	40,8	39,8
External situation					
Current account	% GDP	-2,6	-1,8	-3,3	-4,3
Export G&S	delta	13,0	-0,9	-0,4	4,7
Import G&S	delta	6,2	0,7	5,5	6,5

Rwanda – Despite its attractivity for investors, the country remain sensitive to external shocks

Strong economic recovery...

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- Between 2008 and 2018: highest growth in the EAC at +7.4%, estimated at +6.0% in 2022, thanks to rapid progress in vaccination (>60% of the population vaccinated by mid-April) and progressive lifting of sanitary restrictions, accommodating policies and external demand increase.
- **Growing interest from French companies** / Emmanuel Macron's visit to Kigali on May 27, 2021 + reopening of the AFD agency: 500 MEUR in 5 years.
- ... challenged by external shocks,
- Inflation is expected to reach +9.5% in 2022 > +5% BNR's target
 → BNR rate rose by +50bp in February (5%).
- **Public debt rising sharply**: 72.0% of GDP in 2022 (49.8% in 2019).
- To encourage private investment: Rwanda Development Board, KIFC, SEZ...

and internal fragilities.

- National poverty rate down from 59% in 2000 to 38% in 2017; GDP/capita up from USD 200/capita in 1995 to USD 860/capita in 2021.
- Resilience driven by **agriculture** and **public investment**, although willing to develop PPPs.



Evolution of GDP growth forecasts

Source: IMF – WEO April 2022

Economy		2019	2020	2021	2022
GDP growth	%	9,5	-3,4	10,2	6,4
GDP	Bns USD	10,4	10,3	11,1	12,1
GDP/capita	USD	835,2	815,8	859,1	909,9
Inflation	Average %	2,4	7,7	0,8	8,0
Public finances					
Budg. Balance	% GDP	-5,1	-9,4	-6,9	-6,8
Primary Balance	% GDP	-3,8	-7,8	-5,0	-4,3
Revenue	% GDP	23,1	23,6	24,4	25,7
Expenditure	% GDP	28,2	32,9	31,3	32,4
Public debt	% GDP	49,8	64,6	68,6	72,0
External situation					
Current account	% GDP	-11,9	-11,9	-10,5	-11,4
Export G&S	delta	-5,1	-15,3	24,3	10,3
Import G&S	delta	8,5	2,8	1,9	8,8 13
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Uganda – Strong monetary policy to support exchange rate

Strong rebound in 2021, but slowdown in 2022

- GDP growth at 4.9% in 2022, below the medium-term average (6.5%). Impact of the crisis in Ukraine: inflation at +8.0% in August.
- PMI downgraded from 54.9 in January to 50.5 in July
- Economic impact of the oil project (tax revenues of +5.0% from 2023, FDI of USD 10 billions).

External balance

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- Depreciation of 7.5% against USD between 01/22 and 09/22.
- 4 months of IMF imports (just barely, thanks to BoU foreign exchange purchases).
- Strong increase of CB rate to 9 %.
- Current account deficit at -10.2%PIN in FY21/22. External debt at 51.6% of GDP (moderate risk of debt distress).

Public finances

- 10-year spreads up +20.4% between May and September.
- Ongoing IMF program: 3 structural benchmarks have not been completed (register of beneficial owners, upgrade of the national social register, and introduction of a penalty regime for unauthorized expenditures).



Economy		2019	2020	2021	2022
GDP growth	%	7,7	-1,4	5,1	4,9
GDP	Bns USD	38,1	37,4	42,5	46,4
GDP/capita	USD	955,7	908,4	1000,5	1060,4
Inflation	Average %	2,3	2,8	2,2	6,1
Public finances					
Budg. Balance	% GDP	-4,8	-7,5	-7,8	-5,6
Primary Balance	% GDP	-2,7	-5,2	-4,8	-2,6
Revenue	% GDP	13,5	13,9	14,4	14,8
Expenditure	% GDP	18,3	21,4	22,1	20,4
Public debt	% GDP	37,6	46,4	51,6	53,1
External situation					
Current account	% GDP	-6,2	-9,3	-7,9	-7,0
Export G&S	delta	8,4	-12,2	-2,2	24,2
Import G&S	delta	17,1	-1,7	-10,6	13,6
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Ethiopia – Inflation and food insecurity: the price of wars

Economic slowdown in Ethiopia because of multiple shocks...

- Resumption of the war in Tigray at the end of August comes on top of the sanitary, meteorological and geopolitical shocks that already affected Ethiopian economy
- Economic rebound in 2021 (+6.3%) but almost twice as low in 2022 (+3.8%)
- 20 mls people suffering food insecurity level IPC 3 (WFP)
- ... that fueled inflation
- Inflation rate has doubled since 2019 (+34.5% in 2022 vs +15.8%), and more particularly food prices inflation. Inflation will continue rising in the short/medium term
- Structural lack of reserves that constrain food supply: in August 2022, reserves reprensented 3 weeks of imports

Debt and common Framework

- Debt service and China: in 2022, the Chinese debt service amounted to USD527.1mls (77.7% of public debt)
- Suspended to the adoption of an IMF programme

Economy		2019	2020	2021	2022
GDP growth	%	9,0	6,1	6,3	3,8
GDP	Bns USD	92,6	96,6	99,3	105,3
GDP/capita	USD	968,3	994,2	995,7	1039,8
Inflation	Average %	15,8	20,4	26,8	34,5
Public finances					
Budg. Balance	% GDP	-2,5	-2,8	-2,8	-4,0
Primary Balance	% GDP	-2,0	-2,4	-2,2	-2,9
Revenue	% GDP	12,8	11,7	11,0	10,5
Expenditure	% GDP	15,4	14,5	13,8	14,5
Public debt	% GDP	54,7	53,7	53,0	48,3
External situation					
Current account	% GDP	-5,3	-4,6	-3,2	-4,5
Export G&S	delta	8,6	-8,1	3,1	-3,9
Import G&S	delta	-8,8	-4,5	-1,2	0,6



Djibouti – High risk of external debt

Public investments have driven economic growth before pandemic...

- Investments in port infrastructures (new multi-purpose terminal, railroad to Addis Ababa, aqueduct and free zones) leading to +7% annual growth between 2013 and 2019 and cost-effective SOEs (gross sales = 35% of GDP). But, the external shocks have constrained port activity and GDP growth is expected at +3% in 2022 (-1pp/ 2021).
- But, **growth inclusive enough**: few job creation and still high **unemployment** (28.4% in 2021), in particular amongst the youngsters (80% in 2021); high **poverty** headcount (22.5% of the population living with less than \$1.90/day).
- Financial inclusion still low: 30% of adults have access to financial services.

... but, have also increased Djibouti's dependence on Ethiopia...

- Ethiopia = 60% of the port traffic → ↑ exposition to external shocks → investments → ↓ imports demand → trade surplus in 2020
- But, escalation of conflicts in Tigray \rightarrow economic slowdown in 2022 (+3%)
- ... raising financial pressures (external debt = 99.5% of public debt)
- Public external debt up from 34% of GDP (2013) to 70.4% (2020) → high risk of over-indebtedness but sustainable to unsustainable
- In a context of global inflation, commodity prices rise put the public budget under pressure; debt service is set to triple this year with the recent expiration of the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).



Economie réelle		2019	2020	2021	2022
Croissance du PIB	%	6,6	1,0	4,0	3,0
PIB	Mds USD	3,3	3,4	3,6	3,8
PIB/hab	USD	3407,6	3451,6	3580,8	3775,0
Inflation	Moyenne %	3,3	1,8	1,2	3,8
Finances publiques					
Balance budgétaire	% PIB	-0,9	-1,6	-1,9	-4,0
Balance primaire	% PIB	0,4	-1,5	-1,8	-3,2
Recettes	% PIB	21,9	21,9	20,2	18,2
Dépenses	% PIB	22,7	23,5	22,1	22,1
Dette publique	% PIB	39,1	41,0	43,2	49,2
Situation externe					
Balance courante	% PIB	17,0	10,7	-1,0	-4,7
Export B&S	delta	9,2	-29,5	6,4	-16,1
Import B&S	delta	10,1	-29,4	18,2	-12,3



Merci de votre attention !

