

# Africa's Economic & Human Conditions



## Africa and the Global Economy

Africa's relative position in the global economy is one of concern as it represents about 20% of the world's land area, about 13.61% of the world's population in 2010 and while the US

accounts for 21% of world's output and Western Europe accounts for 20%; Africa's contribution to world's output is just 1%. Yet despite its low output ratio of 1%, Africa carries 17% of the world's external debt burden. The economic gap between the high-income economies and Sub-Saharan Africa has increased from being about thirty-two times in 1980 to becoming about seventy-six times by 2008.



African Urban Issues (Click to View BBC Video)

## Education and Human Health

Whether it is the cause or the effect of poverty, the fact remains that many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa still enroll less than half of their

children in primary school; while adult literacy rates are below 40% and less than 4% of the relevant age-group has access to higher education. Human health in Africa suffers even more as infectious and parasitic diseases such as tuberculosis (TB), diarrhea, and acute respiratory infection continue to take an enormous toll in death and disability; with TB and malaria taking the lead. Even in 2008 only 44% of the population has access to safe water and studies have shown that 80% of the causes of morbidity are related to water borne diseases, such as cholera, malaria, river blindness, etc. Malaria results in roughly 2 million deaths and about 300 to 500 million clinical cases each year. Children and pregnant women are the most vulnerable groups. The disease is one of the most significant health problems in Sub-Saharan Africa and it has an enormous economic and social consequence. Coupled with this, HIV-AIDS is decimating the most productive age group in the economy of Africa and the situation has been worsened by the economic crisis.

## Characteristics of Poverty



The characteristics of poverty in Africa can be described as follow: About 40% of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa lives on less than \$1 a day. Those, who are most vulnerable to poverty, live in the *rural* areas and in large households. These households are often headed by *women*. These women are most likely to be *uneducated*. These people are also most likely to live in those countries, where the real *GDP growth* rates are less than 5% per year.

## Corruption, Poor Governance & Gender Inequality

Africa's problems are not easy to solve by any imagination as they are being compounded daily by corruption, poor governance, gender inequality and most especially misallocation of scarce resources due to bad economic policies and the lack of planning. Yet Africa's rate of return on investment is the highest in the world and it has produced some of the world's



experts in science, engineering, management and economics. Ironically many of these experts reside outside of Africa in the US, Europe and Beyond forming part of the African Diaspora.

With the high level of human suffering in Africa and the existence of its scientists, engineers, economists, financial planners and medical experts in the US and Europe especially, the big question is therefore how can this high level of African expertise be channelled toward African Development?

# African Development Management Network

## Our Mission

At the African Development Management Network, our mission is to harness and utilize the expertise and skills of Africans outside of Africa, in combination and mixture with the skills and experience of the Africans on the continent to solve African Development Problems, in order to reverse the brain-drain syndrome and also to bridge the gaps in the technological, economic and public health sectors.

## Our Approach:

In order to accomplish our mission, ADM represents a development network, an organization for change by connecting Africa to the knowledge, the experience, the skills and the resources to help Africa improve the economic, social, educational and health experience of its people; in order to build a better life. Our consultants are available in the US, in Europe and in many African countries working to provide solutions to Africa's development challenges. As Africa develops its institutional capacity, our consultants and business partners are always ready to help with development project proposals and funding possibilities, conducting the feasibility studies of projects, the planning and the execution of development projects.

## Our Services

In order to accomplish our mission, we provide economic development management services to in the following sectors:

- \* Macro Economic Policy & Management
- \* Agriculture, Water & Sanitation
- \* Energy & Environmental Engineering
- \* International Trade, Procurement & Finance
- \* Medical & Public Health Management
- \* Institutional Capacity & Governance
- \* Education and Professional Training
- \* Information Technology & Internet Management

## Services for Conflict Emerging Economies (Fragile States)

We utilize our Economic Management Network as the agent of change and rapid growth in Africa by leading the efforts in international and the economic management of Conflict Emerging Economies and Fragile States in such areas as:

- Budgeting, Policy, Planning, Statistical & Accounting Capabilities
- Resource Mobilization and Strategic Allocation
- Economic Road Map (Objectives, Priorities & Project Feasibilities and Selections)
- Performance Indicators, Monitoring & Transparency Mechanisms
- Re-establishing Market Mechanisms with *appropriate* Government Regulations
- Developing Internal and External Trade Potentials with Appropriate Currency, Foreign Exchange & Procurement Regulations
- Establishing appropriate investments for water, sanitation, health, energy and infrastructural development, agriculture and security
- Enhancing Governance & Gender Equality