

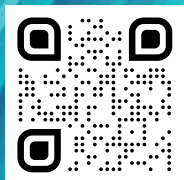
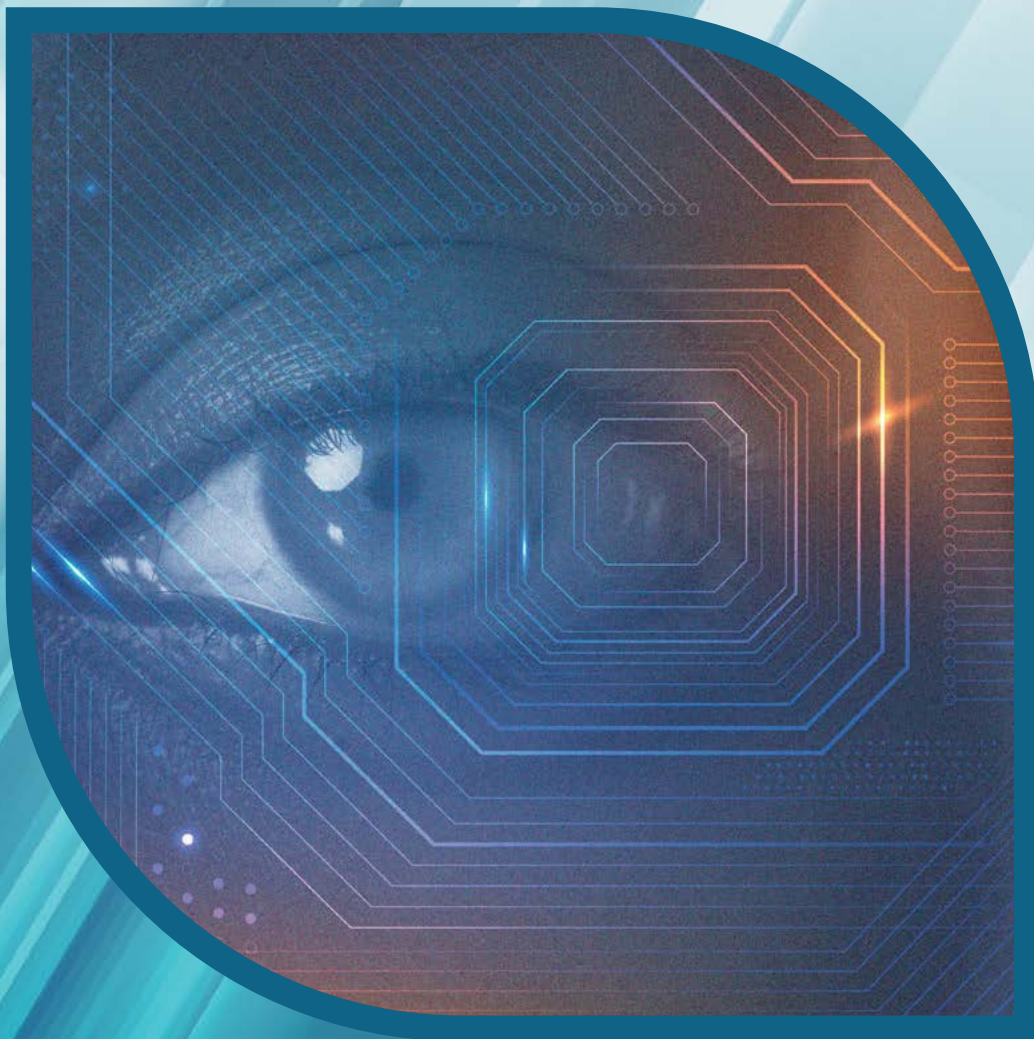


CENTER FOR STRATEGIC
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MONITOR



JUNE 2022

KENYA

JUNE 7, 2022

KENYA'S GROWTH EXPECTED TO SLOW IN 2022 DUE TO ONGOING DROUGHT, UKRAINE CRISIS

Uganda's real gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow by 5.5 percent in 2022 and 5.2 percent on average in 2023–24. This growth rate, while still strong, will be a moderation following a remarkable recovery in 2021 from the worst economic effects of the pandemic, when the country's economy grew by 7.5 percent, much higher than the estimated average growth in Sub-Saharan Africa of 4 percent.

According to the 25th edition of the World Bank [Kenya Economic Update, Aiming High: Securing Education to Sustain the Recovery](#), the impact of the war in Ukraine is weighing on the global economic recovery from the pandemic. Domestically, a key risk to the outlook is a further worsening of the current drought, which is having a devastating effect on food security and livelihoods in affected parts of

the country and is necessitating increased social spending on food assistance. For example, using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, it is estimated that 3.1 million Kenyans (out of 13.6 million) living in counties with arid and semi-arid land are food insecure. The baseline economic projections assume that below average rains will hamper agricultural performance and accounts for the downside effects of the ongoing war in Ukraine through increased global commodity prices.

“While Kenya's economy has been resilient, the multiple recent shocks show the urgency of improving social protection mechanisms to cushion the most vulnerable households,” said **World Bank Country Director, Keith Hansen**. “This will enable Kenya to move away from other more costly and less well-targeted

support measures such as fuel subsidies.”

The report further notes that Kenya's economic performance remained strong in the early months of 2022, but external challenges have mounted. The economy is vulnerable to the commodity price shocks resulting from the war, particularly through fuel, fertilizer, wheat and other food imports. Global financial conditions have also tightened sharply, increasing external financing costs. However, Kenya's exposure to the war in Ukraine through direct trade linkages is small, with Russia and Ukraine accounting for only 2.1 percent of total goods trade between 2015 and 2020. Similarly, tourists from Ukraine and Russia do not account for a significant share of Kenya's tourism market.

SOURCE:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/06/07/kenya-s-growth-expected-to-slow-in-2022-due-to-ongoing-drought-ukraine-crisis>

FIFTY DAYS TO D-DAY: THE MEN VYING TO BECOME KENYA'S NEXT PRESIDENT

JUNE 20, 2022

The two main challengers remain opposition leader Raila Odinga and Deputy President William Ruto.

On August 9, Kenyans head to the polls to elect their next president. Currently, there are four candidates angling to succeed incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is constitutionally barred from continuing in office after serving two five-year terms.

On June 6, the country's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IBEC) concluded its vetting process and whittled down the number of contestants from 55 to four. Some of those disqualified include popular lawmaker Ekuru Aukot and

independent candidate Jeremiah Nyagah.

The two main challengers remain opposition leader Raila Odinga, for whom Kenyatta has publicly declared his support, and William Ruto, the president's deputy.

RAILA ODINGA – ORANGE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

A serial aspirant who first ran for the Kenyan presidency in 1997 when he finished third, this is Raila Odinga's fifth attempt.

Odinga, one of Kenya's most popular politicians, is the patriarch of a dynasty that began with his father Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, an independence hero and Kenya's first vice president. The elder Odinga was a friend and running mate to Jomo Kenyatta, Uhuru's father, and Kenya's first-ever president.

The 77-year-old served as prime minister between 2008 and 2013

to President Mwai Kibaki (now deceased), in a grand coalition that was formed after the peace talks mediated by late former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. That was the outcome of the disputed 2007 elections which Kibaki won and Odinga polled second, leading to bloodshed across parts of Kenya.

Odinga also lost the 2013 and 2017 elections to the younger Kenyatta but is now being endorsed by his archrival.

This time around, he has picked Martha Karua, Kibaki's justice minister,

as his running mate to bring in mass votes among her Kikuyu people, the country's largest ethnic group.

Odinga's centre-left campaign agenda is focused on tackling corruption and fixing the loopholes which he says are denying common Kenyans basic services. He has also promised national reconciliation to unite the country, judiciary reforms and social welfare for poor households. He is the only presidential candidate who has officially launched a manifesto so far.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2022/6/20/fifty-days-to-d-day-the-men-striving-to-become-kenyas-president>

SOUTH SUDAN

SOUTH SUDAN WATER MINISTER DIES IN EGYPT

South Sudan's Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Manawa Peter Gatkuoth Gual died in a hospital in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, South Sudan's government has announced. First Vice-President Riek Machar said the minister

was flown to Egypt on Friday after developing chest pains in the capital, Juba. He underwent surgery on Saturday and died at 05:00 local time on Sunday. He was a committed nationalist. He was a strong believer in reforms in the Republic of South Sudan. In his

condolence message, President Salva Kiir said he received the news of the death of Mr Manawa with "profound sorrow." The late minister was also a member of the political bureau of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO).

SOURCE: BBC AFRICA NEWS

<https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/c302m85q54lt/south-sudan>

CONFLICT PUSHING FOOD PRICES UP IN SOUTH SUDAN - UN

Conflict and disease outbreaks are pushing food prices up in South Sudan, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The prices have increased by 17% compared to last month with the capital, Juba, being the most affected. In a statement, the UN also blamed food insecurity for "deepening people's humanitarian needs" in the country. Some 7.7 million

people, more than half of the country's population, are estimated to be severely food insecure this year. They include 87,000 people who are already facing catastrophic conditions, according to OCHA. The World Food Programme (WFP) said it was cutting food aid to almost 6.2 million people in South Sudan due to shortages of funds. Among those to be affected by the food cuts are 178,000

children school under WFP's feeding programme. But it says the effect will be across the country, meaning it will have a severe nationwide impact. While global attention is focused on Ukraine, South Sudan continues to grapple with unprecedented levels of food insecurity caused by conflict, climate change, Covid-19 pandemic and the rising cost of living.

SOURCE: BBC AFRICA NEWS

<https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/c302m85q54lt/south-sudan>

UN PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF SOUTH SUDAN AID HITS CHILDREN

The UN World Food Programme says due to a shortage of funding it has to suspend some food aid in South Sudan where more than half the population is grappling with severe food insecurity. The

crisis has been fuelled by conflict, flooding, drought and and soaring food prices exacerbated by the crisis in Ukraine. The WFP says among those affected by the cuts will be close to 200,000 children who will no longer receive daily

school meals. It describes these as a crucial safety net that helps keep South Sudanese children in school. The WFP is appealing for more than \$400m (£330m).

SOURCE:

[*The Dawn Newspaper*](#)

SUDAN

DARFUR ATTACKS DISPLACE 84,000 IN JUNE ALONE: UN

Violence in western Sudan this month alone has displaced more than 84,000 people, doubling the number of those driven from their homes so far this year, according to UN reports. The numbers are the highest since January 2021. Last year, at least 440,500 were displaced, five times more than in 2020, UN data show. Aid workers fear a displacement crisis akin to the one triggered by the conflict in Darfur in the early 2000s.

Violence in Darfur escalated after 2003 as Sudan's government enlisted the help of Arab tribal militias commonly known as Janjaweed – later formalised as the Popular Defence Forces – to put down a rebellion by mostly African agriculturalists who felt they were being treated unfairly by Khartoum. At least 2.5 million people were displaced and 300,000 were killed in the violence. The government denied arming and supporting the Janjaweed and using them against the tribal rebels.

A peacekeeping force mandated by a 2020 peace agreement has yet to be deployed widely. Finance minister and rebel group leader Jibril Ibrahim said raising money to implement the agreement has been difficult. June violence included fighting in the Kulbus locality in West Darfur, where 125 people were killed and 50,000 displaced when Arab militias attacked villages belonging to the Gimir tribe.

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/23/darfur-attacks-displace-84000-june-un>

ONE-THIRD OF SUDAN'S POPULATION FACES HUNGER CRISIS: UN

Acute food insecurity is defined as occurring “when a person’s inability to consume adequate food puts their lives or livelihoods in immediate danger”. “The combined effects of conflict, climate shocks, economic and political crises, rising costs and poor harvests are pushing millions of people deeper into hunger and poverty,” said Eddie Rowe, WFP’s representative in Sudan. Living

conditions rapidly deteriorated across cash-strapped Sudan since an October military coup sent an already fragile economy into free-fall, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine compounding the economic pain.

WFP warned food insecurity among people “may dramatically increase to unprecedented levels

and ultimately lead to more conflict and displacement” unless Sudan receives robust support with agriculture inputs. Funding levels fall short of meeting humanitarian needs in Sudan, where 40 percent of the population is expected to slip into food insecurity by September, the report said.

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/16/one-third-of-sudans-population-faces-hunger-crisis-un>

ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIAN CHILDREN SUFFER ‘DEADLIEST FORM’ OF MALNUTRITION

The charity Save the Children is warning that about 185,000 Ethiopian children are suffering from the deadliest form of malnutrition. It says children, especially small ones, are suffering the most from

famine, with much of Ethiopia gripped by the worst drought for 40 years. Save the Children’s country director, Xavier Joubert, says the expanding drought is wearing down their resilience, already weakened by conflict and

Covid. With four rainy seasons already missed, and a fifth likely, the charity says 30 million Ethiopians need humanitarian assistance. Parts of neighbouring Kenya and Somalia are also affected by drought.

SOURCE: BBC NEWS <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cwlw3xz047it/ethiopia>

VIDEO OF UNARMED MAN’S KILLING SPARKS ETHIOPIA UPROAR

U A gruesome video of an unarmed man being shot by uniformed men in Ethiopia has sparked outrage online, with some calling it an execution. The incident reportedly happened in the western city of Gambella where fighting between armed groups and government forces has left dozens dead. In the video, the

man is seen with his hands tied behind his back and uniformed men shooting at him multiple times. The Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and Gambella Liberation Front had earlier in the week launched attacks in the city, the capital of Gambella region. Regional authorities have declared that they are in control of the city, but the OLA said it had

concluded its “joint operation” after “meeting its objective”. He added that security forces were still capturing members of the armed groups who were hiding among the public. In recent years Ethiopia has seen an increase in videos of killings of unarmed individuals - mostly by security forces.

SOURCE: BBC NEWS <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cwlw3xz047it/ethiopia>

DJIBOUTI

JUNE 11-17, 2022

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VICTORIA NULAND SET TO VISIT DJIBOUTI

In Djibouti, Under Secretary Nuland and an interagency team will meet with government counterparts to advance U.S.-Djibouti relations and our close security

cooperation. They discussed the full range of bilateral and regional issues, including opportunities to advance stability and economic recovery in conflict-affected areas in

support of our new partnership under the U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability.

SOURCE: <https://dj.usembassy.gov/under-secretary-of-state-for-political-affairs-nulands-travel-to-djibouti-mozambique-and-nigeria/>

TANZANIA

TANZANIA'S MASAII DEMAND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS IN UN FRAMEWORK

Tanzania's Maasai people, resisting government pressure to leave their ancestral homes in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, have presented their demands for Indigenous land rights to negotiators in Nairobi finalizing the proposed U.N. global biodiversity framework. The appeal by the Maasai community of Loliando on Thursday follows a violent confrontation with Tanzanian security forces two weeks ago which forced many of them to flee to neighboring Kenya. A decision by the East African Court of Justice on the politically sensitive issue was expected this week but

has been postponed until later this year due to "unavoidable circumstances," according to a court notice.

Over the past several days, people from Tanzania's Maasai community have been targeted with live ammunition and tear gas, lawyers, activists and human rights groups say, as security forces try to evict them to make way for a luxury game reserve with alleged links to Emirati royals. At least 30 Maasai people have been injured by security forces as they protested against government plans to demarcate 1,500 sq km

of land as a game reserve, local activists say. Recategorising the area as a game reserve, rather than a game-controlled area, means a ban on grazing and human settlements in the area, experts say. The battle is the latest in a string of conflicts over the use of land in Tanzania, home to an estimated 400,000 Maasai pastoralists. Government and big-game hunting companies have long clashed with indigenous groups, activists say, in a country that, before the Covid pandemic, used to draw more than 1mn tourists annually to attractions such as Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar, and the Serengeti.

SOURCE: AP NEWS

<https://apnews.com/article/climate-politics-science-united-nations-africa-9f7aa351806e0a97e802a5338f65e27a>

TANZANIA SIGNS NATURAL GAS DEAL WITH EQUINOR AND SHELL

Tanzania has signed a framework agreement with Norway's Equinor and Britain's Shell that will bring them closer to starting construction on a \$30bn project to export liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The deal announced on Saturday foresees a final investment decision by 2025, and a start of operations by 2029-2030 at a liquefied natural gas plant to be built in Tanzania's southern coastal town

of Lindi. It marks a significant step forward in Tanzania's efforts to jumpstart the export of part of the vast gas deposits off its coast, estimated at more than 57 trillion cubic feet (1,630 billion cubic metres).

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA NEWS

<https://www.aljazeera.com/africa/>

ERITREA

UN RAPPORTEUR: ERITREANS FORCIBLY RECRUITED AS SOLDIERS FOR TIGRAY WAR

A report on the situation of human rights in Eritrea presented to the UN Human Rights Council highlights the application of force in gathering recruits for military service in the country. The special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, Mohamed Abdesalam Babiker, has put the spotlight on reports of forced recruitment of people, including children, by Eritrea to fight in the ongoing

conflict in the northern Tigrayan region of Ethiopia

In a report titled “Situation of human rights in Eritrea”, presented to the 50th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council which is taking place in Geneva from 13 June – 8 July, Babiker highlighted the continuing involvement of Eritrea in the war in Ethiopia which has important implications for the internal human rights situation

in the country.

The rapporteur’s report explored several aspects, ranging from the national/military service, access to justice and the rule of law, civil and political rights/fundamental freedoms and the impacts of the conflict in Tigray on the human rights situation in Eritrea, among others.

SOURCE: VATICAN NEWS

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2022-06/un-rapporteur-eritrea-tigray-war-human-rights.html>

UGANDA

JUNE 30, 2022

In the wake of a waning COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and upon full re-opening of the economy, optimism—regarding expected acceleration of growth and a clearer outlook for oil production with the signing of the Final Investment Decision in February 2022—has been dampened by new global shocks, including the impacts of the war in Ukraine.

The 19th edition of the [Uganda Economic Update \(UEU\): Fiscal Sustainability through Deeper Reform of Public Investment Management](#), a biannual analysis of Uganda's near-term macroeconomic outlook, estimates growth at 3.7 percent in 2022, which is lower than pre-COVID-19 projections of over 6 percent. Uganda's gross national income per capita stood at about \$840 in FY21 and has increased only marginally in the year since.

Real gross domestic product grew by 4.3 percent in the first half of 2022 supported by a

strong and speedy recovery of the service sector upon the opening of the leisure and entertainment industry, accommodation, and food services, as well as sustained buoyancy of the information and communications sector. The report projects a 5.1 percent growth rate in FY23, 0.5 percentage point below the December 2021 forecast, increasing to about 6 percent in FY24.

Rising commodity prices and the overall increase in cost of living pose new risks to livelihoods, that had just begun recovering from the effects of COVID-19. These and other shocks are threatening to stall socio-economic transformation, thus increasing the likelihood of the people falling deeper into poverty," said **Mukami Kariuki, World Bank Country Manager for Uganda**. "It is therefore crucial for the Government of Uganda to adopt targeted interventions to support the vulnerable while managing debt and rising inflation."

The UEU proposes four policy actions that will enable Uganda to sustain a resilient and inclusive recovery: i) accelerate vaccination efforts against COVID-19; ii) adopt targeted interventions to support the vulnerable - such as building shock responsive social protection systems; iii) maintain prudent fiscal and debt management to support the fiscal consolidation agenda; and iv) cautious monetary tightening in the face of rising inflationary pressures.

The report also recommends accelerating longer term structural reforms to (i) strengthen revenue mobilization through the implementation of the Domestic Revenue Mobilization Strategy; (ii) improve public investment management; (iii) rationalize public expenditure to support faster, sustainable, and inclusive growth by investing strongly in human capital development; and (iv) improve the trade and business environment and enable green investments.

SOURCE:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/06/30/uganda-can-rein-in-debt-by-managing-its-public-investments-better>

UGANDAN ARMY DISCOVERS TRAINING FACILITY FOR ADF REBELS

17TH JUNE 2022

The ADF reportedly carried out a series of bombings in Kampala and elsewhere last November, which killed at least nine

people. Uganda’s military says it has discovered bomb-making material at a training facility for a rebel group allied to ISIL (ISIS) about 60km (37 miles) west of the capital, Kampala, and that three people had been arrested.

The revelation was made by army spokesman Felix Kulayigye on Thursday during a media tour of the village of Kikubajinja in Luwero district. Authorities blamed the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a militia based in the dense forests in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, for a [series of bombings](#) in Kampala and

elsewhere last November, which killed at least nine people.

In one of the worst attacks, a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of a police station in the centre of Kampala. Three minutes later, two other suicide bombers detonated along a road that leads to the parliament. The training facility was found at the home of a local and a tunnel used for training had been dug in one of the rooms, Kulayigye said.

Security personnel had become suspicious after reports emerged from neighbours that “nobody was allowed to enter, nobody would be seen getting out”, the army spokesman said. Authorities

recovered bomb-making materials including metal, nails and wires as well as bullets and a pistol fitted with a silencer, he said.

In November, the Ugandan army began a joint operation with the Congolese army to root out the ADF, which [started as an uprising in Uganda](#) but has been based in the DRC since the late 1990s. It pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in mid-2019. Kulayigye said the three suspects had already bought a car they planned to use in an attack.

“They were in the process of assembling a bomb which would be taken by that car to explode in a public place,” he said.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/17/ugandas-army-says-it-discovers-training-facility-for-islamist-militia>

SOMALIA

14TH JUNE 2022

HUNGER IN SOMALIA

The drought in the country has a lesson: We know how to ease human suffering. We need to do it.

My colleague Abdi Latif Dahir has written a [terrifying article](#) that no one should have to write in 2022: Children are dying of hunger in Somalia. On top of war and political instability, now come soaring food and fertilizer prices, and forecasts of a fifth consecutive below-average rainy season. Nearly half of the country's estimated 16 million people don't have enough food.

Abdi met a man named Adan Diyad in a hospital pediatric ward. Diyad had

abandoned his fields after the closest river dried up. There was no food left, and no money. His 4-year-old became so malnourished he could hardly keep his eyes open. As Diyad carried his child to the medical center, he kept "listening to his son's heartbeat to make sure that he had not died."

What does climate change have to do with this horrible situation? Maybe nothing. Scientists don't yet know.

Last year, many aid groups mistakenly blamed climate change for drought in Madagascar. When a team of attribution scientists looked

at the data, though, they concluded that warming had a negligible role to play. My colleague Raymond [Zhong wrote about it](#).

Regardless of whether a specific extreme weather event is linked to anthropogenic climate change, the common denominator is human suffering. In the era of extreme weather, it's crucial to know how to ease that pain. That's what I wanted to better understand. So I reached out to Abdi and Ray.

SOURCE:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/14/climate/hunger-drought-somalia.html>

SOMALI PRESIDENT NOMINATES HAMZA ABDI BARRE AS PRIME MINISTER

15TH JUNE 2022

Barre was voted in as a parliamentarian in Kismayo, the commercial capital of Jubbaland, in December. Somalia's president has nominated

Hamza Abdi Barre, a former chairman of the Jubbaland state election commission, as prime minister. "I ask the parliament to approve him as

soon as possible. I ask the prime minister to fulfil the work before him like tackling insecurity, drought, climate change and good relations

with all countries,” [President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud](#) said on state television on Wednesday.

“ I took this decision after recognising Hamza’s knowledge, experience, and ability,” Mohamud later told journalists. Mohamud won the presidency for the second

time in May, having previously served from 2012 to 2017, after a long-delayed election that took place against a backdrop of the [worst drought](#) in 40 years and a bloody armed rebellion.

Mohamud unveiled his choice for prime minister just six days after he was inaugurated at a ceremony in Mogadishu

attended by several regional heads of state.

“ I thank God for making Somalia hold a fair election after a period of such uncertainty,” said Barre. “ I assure you I will work day and night, and I will put together the best cabinet.”

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/15/somali-president-nominates-barre-as-prime-minister>

RWANDA

10TH JUNE 2022

UK'S RWANDA DEPORTATION PLANS FACE LEGAL CHALLENGES

The UK Home Office's plans to send a first group of asylum seeker to Rwanda on 14 June, under a deal between the two countries agreed last month, faced two legal challenges this week.

The first, launched on Wednesday by a trade union that represents borderforce staff, two charities and four asylum seeker facing

removal to Rwanda, involved an application for a judicial review of the lawfulness of the policy in the high court. The claimants also sought an injunction to prevent Tuesday's flight from going ahead. The hearing is being held today.

The claimants said that if they lose, they will appeal and UNHCR said it would join the appeal. A second application for a

judicial review was made on Thursday by refugee charity asylum Aid, which also applied for an urgent interim injunction preventing any flights from leaving. It was also reported on Wednesday that Zambia may be the next country to accept asylum seekers who arrive to the UK under a similar agreement to the one with Rwanda.

SOURCE:

<https://www.unhcr.org/refugeebrief/the-refugee-brief-10-june-2022/>

THE EYES WATCHING RWANDA

19TH JUNE 2022

All eyes will be on Rwanda as the east African nation gets its turn to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the capital city of Kigali. Coming on the heels of the Queen Elizabeth II platinum jubilee celebration, the biennial summit of the Commonwealth of Nations

will be meeting for the first time since 2018 because of COVID-19 restrictions.

With the queen as the symbolic head of a British-founded inter-governmental organization, the Commonwealth of Nations is

an organization whose current members include the former colonial power along with its former colonies, protectorates and along with its former colonies, protectorates and mandates. Today, 54 countries are members of the organization, including Rwanda, which joined voluntarily in 2009.

Commonwealth leaders will convene in Kigali under the theme of “Delivering a Common Future” with the goal of developing deeper connections, forging innovation and creating transformation.

This year’s highly anticipated conference comes when the world and global democracies are at a tipping point with a Russian-provoked proxy war against NATO taking place in Ukraine, COVID-19 invoked supply-chain issues plaguing

supply-side economics and high rates of inflation crippling buying power throughout the world.

In March, 17 African and four Caribbean countries abstained from the United Nations vote condemning Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. This year’s commonwealth conference will be the focal point for Rwandans, diplomats, and a new generation of leaders of majority-Black countries looking to forge a new world order where their citizens’ needs supersede that

of colonial or imperial power structures.

“It is high time for Africa and the Caribbean to work together in a direct and sustainable manner both through our respective regional organizations [CARICOM and the African Union] and bilaterally,” Rwandan President Paul Kagame said during a visit to Jamaica in April.

SOURCE:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/richardfowler/2022/06/19/the-eyes-watching-rwanda/?sh=18dff76e7795>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

JUNE 7, 2022

CIVIC WARNS CIVILIANS WILL PAY HEAVY PRICE FOR RENEWED VIOLENCE IN EASTERN DR CONGO

In light of increasing tensions between several countries in the Great Lakes region and a recent uptick in violence in eastern DR Congo, Centre for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) urges restraint and diplomacy. Any further escalation risks destabilizing an already fragile context and civilians will pay a heavy price, warns CIVIC.

“Historically, fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo—whether between countries or between countries and armed groups—has had devastating consequences on civilians,” says Daniel Levine-Spound, CIVIC’s DRC-based Peacekeeping Researcher.

“We are alarmed by the high level of atrocities and human rights abuses reported in eastern DR Congo in recent months, including reports of targeted killing of civilians and mass displacement. As tensions between Rwanda and DR Congo escalate, an already fragile situation could get worse.”

In recent weeks, Congolese government forces and rebels from the M23 armed group have clashed in DR Congo’s North Kivu province, leading to the displacement of tens of thousands of Congolese civilians. The Rwandan and Congolese governments have exchanged significant accusations about the fighting.

CIVIC urges all actors, including state and non-state armed actors, to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to take steps to limit the consequences of any armed operations on civilians.

“The clock is ticking and all actions to prioritize diplomacy and dialogue should be taken. DR Congo is already suffering from one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world with conflict and insecurity being the main causes.”

SOURCE:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/civic-warns-civilians-will-pay-heavy-price-renewed-violence-eastern-dr-congo>

Compiled by Anna Dure and Karen Geri

CSPS
MONITOR



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P.O. BOX 619, Hai Jebrona, Adjacent to Martyrs School,
Opposite Simba Playground, Juba, South Sudan.
Tel: +211 (0) 920 310 415 | +211 (0) 915 652 847
<https://csps.org.ss>