



CENTER FOR STRATEGIC  
AND POLICY STUDIES

*Living the future today*

CSPS

# MONITOR



**OCTOBER** 2025

# UGANDA

## UGANDAN ECONOMY: HERE'S WHAT WORKED, AND FAILED IN OCTOBER

**KAMPALA** – In the capital, Kampala, the story of Uganda's economy in October could be read in small, telling scenes.

Taxi drivers grumbled a little less about fuel. A few market vendors shaved 50 or 100 shillings off the price of bread and eggs. Bankers quietly celebrated a stronger shilling. Exporters, especially in coffee and gold, had reason to smile. But in the shade of city arcades, small business owners still talked about one thing: loans that are too expensive to touch.

The latest **Performance of the Economy** report from the Ministry of Finance paints a picture of an economy that, in October, steadied itself on the big indicators; inflation, exports, exchange rate, while leaving some of the deeper structural problems stubbornly in place.

In short, the macro numbers improved. Life on the ground is still catching up.

Let's unpack what worked, what faltered, and what it means for the average Ugandan—and for the country's long-term economic trajectory.

But this appreciation isn't without risk. A stronger currency can hurt exporters in the long run, especially in sectors where price competitiveness matters. For now, though, it's a welcome change.

### INFLATION EASES, BUT NOT FOR EVERYONE

Annual headline inflation fell to 3.4 percent in October, down from 4 percent the previous month. Lower food prices played a big role; bread, eggs, cassava, passion fruits, oranges, and onions all saw notable price drops.

On the surface, this is good news for households already stretched thin. But dig a little deeper, and the story becomes more nuanced.

While food prices eased, inflationary pressures in other sectors remain. Core inflation, a

measure that strips out volatile food and fuel prices, also dipped, but the decline was modest. For those relying on urban services, transportation, or imported goods, cost pressures haven't disappeared.

## PRIVATE SECTOR CREDIT

Uganda's private sector appears to be regaining confidence. Outstanding credit to businesses and individuals rose by one percent between August and September, reaching Shs 24.3 trillion. It's a modest rise, but a meaningful one.

Still, interest rates remain high. The average lending rate on Shilling loans hovered around 18.45 percent, making borrowing costly

for many small, medium enterprises and individuals.

## EXPORTS SURGE

Uganda's merchandise exports in September 2025 soared to nearly USD 950 million, a staggering 36 percent increase compared to the same month a year ago. Gold, coffee, base metals, sugar, and fish led the charge.

Much of this growth came from price and volume increases in commodities, with coffee and gold alone making up a large slice of the export pie.

While this might sound like a win, experts caution against overreliance on a few volatile commodities.

"The export figures are impressive, but fragile," a trade policy analyst said. "Global commodity prices can swing sharply, and without value addition, we remain vulnerable."

## GOVERNMENT BORROWING AND BOND AUCTIONS

In October, the government raised Shs 4.38 trillion through a mix of short-term Treasury Bills and long-term Bonds. Investors snapped up both, indicating sustained trust in government debt instruments.

Notably, yields on longer-term bonds (like the 10- and 20-year tenors) rose slightly, suggesting rising expectations around future inflation or fiscal risks.

The Central Bank, meanwhile, kept its key policy rate at 9.75 percent for the 13th straight month, signaling a wait-and-see approach as it tries to balance inflation control with economic stimulation.

## A COUNTRY AT AN ECONOMIC CROSSROADS

October offered a snapshot of an economy in transition: growing, but cautiously. Inflation is under control, for now. Credit demand is recovering, but interest rates are still punishingly high. Exports are booming, but

the base is narrow and exposed.

The big question is whether Uganda can use this moment to build more inclusive,

diversified, and resilient growth.

There are signs of progress. But there are also warning lights blinking in the background: rising public debt, narrow export baskets, and a private sector still finding its footing.

For everyday Ugandans, the bottom line is

simple: life may have gotten a bit cheaper in October, but the struggle to build and sustain livelihoods continues.

The real test will be whether policymakers can navigate the coming months with clarity, discipline, and vision. If they do, October 2025 may be remembered as more than just a good month, it could be a turning point.

Source: [Ugandan Economy: Here's what worked, and failed in October | C-News](#)

## THE 'SHADOW ARMY' HELPING UGANDA'S LONG-SERVING PRESIDENT KEEP AN IRON GRIP ON POWER

17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

Toting sub-machine guns and sometimes wearing masks as they drive along the streets of Uganda, members of an elite military unit are increasingly viewed as a private army to keep 81-year-old President Yoweri Museveni in power - along with his ever-growing family dynasty.

Museveni has led Uganda since 1986, when his rebel forces marched into the capital, Kampala. He has since won four elections - all marred by allegations of violence and rigging.

But this is nothing new in the country - since Uganda gained independence in 1962, power has only ever changed hands through rebellions or military coups.

Museveni is seeking re-election next year and the opposition fears that the Special Forces Command (SFC) could be used to prevent it from campaigning, as it says was the case in 2021.

But the SFC, which for years was commanded by Museveni's son Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, has been accused by government critics of abducting, torturing and killing opposition activists all year round, not just during elections. The SFC denies these allegations.

"It's like a shadow army within the army which is only answerable to the president and his son. Its rise and influence is causing resentment among senior generals," one military source told the BBC.

This is compounded by the fact that Gen Kainerugaba, 51, who is now the army chief, and has said he wants to succeed his father one day, has enlisted his own son into the army.

Gen Kainerugaba has also been contemptuous of some long-serving generals, calling one a "buffoon".

His remarks sent shockwaves through military and political circles, but the government downplayed them as "mere social-media banter" - something for which Gen Kainerugaba is well known.

Several years ago [he made a joke remark about invading neighbouring Kenya](#), to the dismay of generals.

Analysts say the unit has become so influential that it rivals the power of the regular army, which still has commanders who fought in the guerrilla war that brought Museveni and his National Resistance Movement (NRM) to power.

These observers have raised fears that the two could clash one day - as in Sudan where [a civil war has broken out](#) following a power struggle between the army and a paramilitary group once allied with it, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The unit now known as the SFC was established when Museveni first took office, and has a motto stating "there is no substitute for loyalty".

"The SFC is the most powerful unit within the Ugandan military, comprising the [most] highly trained, best-equipped, and best-funded officers in the country," Dr Gerald Bareebe, a Uganda-born academic based at Canada's York University, told the BBC.

Both the Ugandan army and the SFC declined to comment when approached by the BBC.

Gen Kainerugaba mostly operates from the unit's headquarters - in a building named after his father - in Entebbe, about 34km (21 miles) south of the capital, Kampala.

Museveni has previously defended the SFC, saying it was formed for Ugandans. He said that only people who did not wish Uganda well could be unhappy with such a force.

But Museveni's critics see it differently - arguing that the president has ruled with an iron fist since seizing power, and has turned the country into his family's fiefdom.

They note that the president's wife, Janet, is the education minister and Gen Kainerugaba is the army chief. His grandson's enrolment into the army - announced in July - is seen as perpetuating the family dynasty.

Gen Kainerugaba has twice led the SFC and is credited with expanding it into a force with an estimated membership of more than 10,000. The regular army is thought to have around 40,000 active members.

"They go through specialised training. And also they have sophisticated weapons, unlike the regular army," a former senior military officer told the BBC.

Although his father promoted him to chief of the defence forces in March last year, Gen Kainerugaba is said to have maintained de facto control over the SFC, with its current commander, Maj Gen David Mugisha, reporting to him.

# ETHIOPIA

## ETHIOPIA CHURCH SCAFFOLDING COLLAPSE KILLS 36 DURING RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL

### PILGRIMS WERE VISITING THE MENJAR SHENKORA ARERTI MARIAM CHURCH TO MARK THE ANNUAL VIRGIN MARY FESTIVAL.

1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2025

---

Makeshift scaffolding set up at a church in Ethiopia has collapsed, killing at least 36 people and injuring dozens, state media reported.

The incident occurred at about 7:45am [4:45 GMT] on Wednesday in the town of Arerti, in the Amhara region, some 70 kilometres (43 miles) east of the capital, Addis Ababa.

A group of pilgrims were visiting the Menjar Shenkora Arerti Mariam Church to mark the annual Virgin Mary festival when the scaffolding collapsed.

District police chief Ahmed Gebeyehu told state media Fana "the number of dead has reached 36 and could increase more," according to the AFP news agency.

The number of people injured remains unclear, but some reports suggest they could be as many as 200.

Local official Atnafu Abate told the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) that some people remained under the rubble but did not

provide details on rescue operations.

Some of the more seriously hurt were taken to hospitals in the capital, he added.

Teshale Tilahun, the local administrator, described the incident as "a tragic loss for the community".

Images shared on the EBC's official Facebook page showed tangled wooden poles, with crowds gathering amid the dense debris.

Other pictures appeared to show the outside of the church, where scaffolding had been precariously constructed.

Health and safety regulations are virtually non-existent in Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation, and construction accidents are common.

Source: [Ethiopia church scaffolding collapse kills 36 during religious festival | News | Al Jazeera](#)

# ETHIOPIA CLAIMS ERITREA IS READYING TO 'WAGE WAR' AGAINST IT

## IN A LETTER TO THE UN, ETHIOPIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER CLAIMS ERITREA IS COLLUDING WITH A TIGRAY-BASED OPPOSITION GROUP.

8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

Ethiopia has accused Eritrea's government of working with an opposition group based in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region to prepare for a military offensive, underscoring concerns of renewed conflict in the region.

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Gedion Timothewos made the claim in a letter appealing to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, cited by the AFP news agency and Ethiopian media on Wednesday.

In the letter, Timothewos claims there is clear "collusion" between Eritrea's government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), a once-dominant political force in Ethiopia that fought a two-year civil war with Addis Ababa, ending in 2022.

"The collusion between the Eritrean government and the TPLF has become more evident over the past few months," said the letter, quoted by AFP. "The hardliner faction of the TPLF and the Eritrean government are actively preparing to wage war against Ethiopia."

In the letter, Addis Ababa also accuses Asmara and the TPLF of "funding, mobilising and directing armed groups" in the northern Amhara region, where the federal army has been facing rebels for several years.

The message speaks to deteriorating relations between neighbouring Ethiopia and Eritrea, which have a decades-long bloody history.

After Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993, a border war erupted between the two Horn of Africa countries from 1998 to 2000, leaving tens of thousands dead.

Relations thawed in 2018 after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power, with the Eritrean army supporting Ethiopian federal forces in the 2020-2022 Tigray War.

Since the conflict ended, relations have again taken a belligerent turn, with Asmara accusing its landlocked neighbour of eyeing the Assab port on the Red Sea in southeastern Eritrea.

Abiy has repeatedly expressed hopes for Ethiopia to regain sea access, lost legally after Eritrea's independence.

Timothewos, in his letter to Guterres, said Addis Ababa wants "to engage in good faith negotiations with the government of Eritrea" and has a vision of "shared prosperity through integration that preserves the territorial integrity and sovereignty of both states".

He accused Asmara of trying "to justify its sinister machinations against Ethiopia by claiming that it feels threatened by Ethiopia's quest to gain access to the sea".

Eritrea, one of Africa's least populated and most insular countries, with about 3.5 million people, has in recent months strengthened ties

with Egypt, which also has strained relations with Ethiopia over water resources.

**Source:** [Ethiopia claims Eritrea is readying to 'wage war' against it | News | Al Jazeera](#)

## SOUTH SUDAN

### DEATH OF A RAINMAKER: WHEN DROUGHT MEANS MURDER IN SOUTH SUDAN

#### FOR A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHOSE JOB MEANS LIFE, CLIMATE CHANGE CAN SPELL DEATH.

3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025

**Torit, South Sudan – Solomon Oture was on the run.**

As a rainmaker, his job was to summon rain – the lifeblood of his small farming community – through prayer and ritual.

But after consecutive years of drought, Oture's relationship with his native village of Lohobohobo – a remote cluster of huts on the western side of South Sudan's Lopit mountains – began to fray. Frustrated community leaders came demanding an explanation for his failures.

As anger rose, Oture, in his early 50s, feared for his safety. He fled, taking refuge at the home of his brother's widow in another village, a four-hour walk away.

*But his escape was short-lived.*

Weeks later, in early October 2024, a group

of young men from Lohobohobo arrived and made it clear Oture had no choice but to return with them.

The following morning, Oture was brought to face the community in the village square, a dirt clearing encircled by a rough-hewn wooden fence. When elders arrived to question him, the ruling generation of fighting-aged men – known as the Monyomiji – intervened. They announced that a decision had already been made.

According to one witness, Oture did not resist and moved calmly as he was led away from the square, out of the village, and down the mountain to a freshly dug hole in the earth.

When he reached its edge, Oture climbed down into the pit and was buried alive.

#### RAINMAKERS TARGETED

In South Sudan, where the climate crisis is ravaging livelihoods, massive floods and scorching droughts have uprooted families and fuelled one of the world's worst hunger crises.

Amid the mounting desperation, people want answers and, occasionally, someone to blame. In some farming villages, long dependent

on seasonal rains, these tensions have put rainmakers at risk.

Oture's killing was first reported by local media and later confirmed to Al Jazeera by family members, government officials in the state capital, Torit, and residents of the village where he lived.

*He is not the only rainmaker to have met a violent death.*

At least five others have been buried alive in the Lopit mountains over the past four decades, according to community leaders and local media reports, including one man in a neighbouring village whose 2021 killing was confirmed to Al Jazeera by a family member. More are said to have been buried in nearby areas, as well as burned alive, beaten to death, or chased into exile. The true toll is not known.

*When killings occur, community members are reluctant to speak out.*

The reporting for this story set out to uncover what happened to Oture and why. In Lohobohobo, nearly a year after Oture's death, his killing is a taboo subject, and details of what happened are difficult to obtain. Residents of the village where he lived most of his life and was ultimately killed were often afraid to discuss the events surrounding his death. Community members became visibly uncomfortable when Al Jazeera asked about

rainmakers, and among those who were willing to speak, fear was palpable.

Those interviewed in Lohobohobo, Torit, and Juba, the nation's capital, did not identify the alleged perpetrators by name but said they were members of the Monyomiji, who are responsible for enforcing customary laws and protecting the village.

According to Matthew Oromo, a former government official who investigated the incident, as well as several others with knowledge of Oture's death, the Monyomiji had warned villagers not to speak publicly about the death. Those who defied this order risked being cast as traitors and exiled, he said.

The account of what happened to Oture stems from interviews with people who witnessed the events leading up to his killing, or who interviewed witnesses to the killing itself. Residents of Lohobohobo interviewed for this story have not been named to protect their identities.

Regional experts cautioned against broaching the subject of Oture's killing with the alleged perpetrators, as it could provoke backlash against individuals suspected of speaking publicly about the incident.

## PERILOUS WORK

Lohobohobo is a small village of several hundred households located in South Sudan's Eastern Equatoria state, which borders Uganda to the south and Kenya to the southeast. Nestled within the Lopit mountains, the village is a verdant maze of stone-lined paths winding between thatch-roofed huts and small gardens. Despite the little they have, residents receive visitors with warmth, generously sharing their meals of locally harvested sorghum, meat, and wild greens.

In a region dependent on rain-fed agriculture, rainmakers have long been revered figures.

"Drought is the greatest scourge that can afflict

the mountainous region of Southeastern [South] Sudan," writes American social theorist Mark Anspach in the foreword of the 1992 book *Kings of Disaster*, a study

of South Sudan's rainmakers by the Dutch anthropologist Simon Simonse. "Since the rainmaker is thought to possess the power to cause or prevent drought, he is the most important king."

The rainmaker performs rituals at the start of the agricultural season and is compensated with livestock, crops, and labour. They are often addressed by the honorific "Sultan".

Rainmakers are believed to pass down their powers by lineage, with a single rainmaker from a family serving at any one time. The jurisdiction under a rainmaker's responsibility is referred to by local leaders as a "raindom" and typically spans several villages. Multiple rainmakers can share a raindom.

Al Jazeera spoke to two rainmakers in the region where Oturle lived, who are not being named to protect their identities.

Both have held their positions for at least a decade after inheriting the roles from family members and, in recent years, have withstood extreme dry spells in their communities.

One described the rituals of rainmaking – gathering sacred stones in their hands, spitting on them, and raising them towards the sky to invoke the rains. Sometimes they collect insects from the fields, place them on their altar, and cut them with a ceremonial spear.

*Nevertheless, the rainmaker said, "It is not me, but God who brings the rain."*

## HUNTING TO SURVIVE

One of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, South Sudan emerged from a series of civil wars in 2018 largely unequipped to manage the devastating weather patterns afflicting much of East Africa.

Beginning in 2019, one year after a peace accord brought the war's main belligerents

Although the rainmaker became evasive when asked about tensions with the Monyomiji in their village, during times of drought, they acknowledged that they could face scrutiny. "That's the only point when I can be scared," they said.

"The Monyomiji can summon me and ask, 'Why is there no rain, are you not working?'" they added. "They can be angry."

Across South Sudan's southern Equatoria region, rainmaking has long been perilous work.

"The rainmaker is destined to bear the brunt of collective resentment when times are bad," writes Anspach in *Kings of Disaster*. "The rainmaker's job is not just to make rain, but to absorb the community's pain."

According to the book, rainmakers have been lynched as far back as the 19th century. But with climate change, erratic rainfall patterns, and a fledgling state that struggles to project authority outside the capital, some fear these spiritual leaders face greater dangers than ever before.

"Of late, the rainmaking role has become very dangerous," said Ranga Gworo, a South Sudanese researcher who began to study violence against spiritual leaders after a distant relative was accused of casting a spell to prevent rainfall and forced to flee their village. "The subject of rain is the most sensitive in our community because of its connection to livelihoods."

into a unity government, a series of historic floods submerged thousands of kilometres of land and displaced millions from their homes. Meanwhile, erratic rainfall took its toll on farming communities across the southern Equatoria region, historically the country's breadbasket.

Pietro\*, a farmer in his late 20s, had spent most of his life in Lohobohobo until July 2022, when a devastating crop failure forced him to leave home in search of work.

"There was no rain," he recalled, and his wife and two young children were going hungry.

Pietro and several friends walked 70km (43 miles) to Torit, before borrowing money for transport to Juba, about 140km (97 miles) away. There, he found work as a labourer, earning 40,000 South Sudanese pounds per week, roughly \$50 at the time.

"It was not enough," he said, recalling his

wages. He ultimately returned to Lohobohobo last year to try his luck again at farming. "The situation has not changed much," he lamented.

By 2023, a growing number of people began to leave their homes in rural Eastern Equatoria for neighbouring cities and refugee camps. Those left behind in villages like Lohobohobo foraged for wild fruits and hunted animals to survive, recalled Zakaria Akaba, a local chief.

In November that year, a group of United Nations-affiliated food security experts warned of "emergency levels" of hunger in the county encompassing Lohobohobo because of "prolonged dry spells that led to crop failure". The UN's World Food Programme scrambled to deliver emergency food rations to prevent starvation as thousands trekked for days to reach Juba.

*"It was devastating," said Akaba.*

## FRAYING RELATIONSHIP AMID DRY SPELLS

People who knew Otire described him as sociable and hardworking, though when he drank, his behaviour could become erratic, even violent, they said.

In 2009, while drunk, Otire threw a spear and impaled his wife, according to his eldest son, Owuor Solomon John, 19, who witnessed the attack as a child. She died in a hospital days later. In the village, her killing was brushed aside as a "domestic issue", John said.

Otire inherited the role of rainmaker from his uncle in 2017, seven years before his death. His volatility continued during his tenure, community leaders in the region said, and in the lead-up to his killing, accusations against him swirled.

As retribution for personal slights against him, people alleged, Otire performed malicious rituals to keep the rain away. One man accused him of placing a curse by burying a baboon skull. Several others said Otire struck a child so hard that he drew blood.

As the drought worsened, Otire reportedly began to make gratuitous demands in return for his work. He would blame those whom he said had wronged him for the lack of rain and then demand compensation, like livestock, to fix the damage, according to several community members.

"The position of rainmaker has become like a business," said Ambose Oyet, a community leader from Imehejek, the region

that encompasses Lohobohobo. "He wanted people to respect him like God," said Oromo, Imehejek's former top official.

While Al Jazeera was unable to independently verify these accusations, the rumours illustrated Otüre's increasing alienation from his village.

## 'BEYOND OUR POWER'

In Lohobohobo, like other villages in the Lopit mountains, each new generation of Monyomiji, which takes power every 10 to 15 years, promises to protect the community against all manner of threats.

If the village is attacked, it is the Monyomiji who defend it; when cattle are raided, they pursue the culprits; and during outbreaks of disease, they carry the sick to receive treatment at distant health clinics. But perhaps the gravest threat faced in the drought-prone region is hunger.

The Monyomiji combat hunger by regulating agriculture, according to Luka Asayai, the 38-year-old leader of Lohobohobo's Monyomiji. They decide which crops to grow, and when, and ensure that able-bodied people are not idle when they can be working in the fields. They also fundraise to buy food after poor harvests, and conduct community farming for elderly people and widows, Asayai said.

Oversight of rainmakers also falls to the Monyomiji, who are responsible for prompting, compensating, and holding these spiritual figures to account.

It was the Lohobohobo Monyomiji who buried Otüre alive, alleged Oromo, the former government official, and Leone Oriho, the

By late 2024, Otüre's fraying relationship with the community collided with a third consecutive dry spell. As crops failed and hunger loomed, tensions between the rainmaker and the Monyomiji began to boil over.

paramount chief of Imehejek, among others, with knowledge of the incident.

When asked about the relationship between the Monyomiji and rainmakers in general, Asayai acknowledged that sometimes dry spells "can create tension", but offered no specifics on recent violence. He said during periods of drought, the community, through the rainmaker, "just goes and asks from God".

In villages hours away from any police post, the Monyomiji enforce customary laws, summoning rule-breakers to account for their crimes, and occasionally doling out physical punishment. "The government is very far," said Asayai. "They have their way and we have ours."

Lohobohobo is essentially out of reach for government and law enforcement officials for long stretches of the year. The road from Torit is a rugged, unkempt dirt trail scarred by deep potholes and jagged rocks. Throughout much of the rainy season, it is all but impassable.

Police in Torit say they are often unable to follow up on crimes in remote villages, relying instead on local chiefs to act as extensions of state power. However, according to Oriho, the most senior chief in the Lopit mountain region, the Monyomiji are heavily armed and unaccountable even to their chiefs. "They have gone beyond our power," he said.

With the state unable to stop them, local Monyomiji act as judge, jury, and executioner for rainmakers, say government officials.

One 43-year-old rainmaker named Lodovico Hobon Angelo was buried alive in the neighbouring village of Mura Lopit in 2021. Like Otüre, he was killed during a severe dry spell and was accused of abusing his position for personal gain.

Oyet, a native of Mura Lopit, said local

Monyomiji had attempted to bury Hobon a decade before his death, but that he intervened to stop them. Hobon is one of at least half a dozen rainmakers killed in the Lopit mountains in the last four decades, with more killed across Eastern Equatoria state.

Still, police say, no one has ever been arrested for any of these crimes. "It is our culture," said Oriho. "The Monyomiji prevents the government from intervening in our culture."

Several community leaders said rainmakers are buried, in part, to avoid individual culpability for the crime. "The community takes the whole responsibility by burying the person alive," said one community member, who requested anonymity due to fear of reprisal for speaking about Otüre's murder. "And the government will say, 'How can we arrest the whole community?'"

## WARNINGS

Oromo, who was chief administrator of Imehejek until June, was in Torit in late 2024 when he heard about Otüre's killing from Oriho. The state governor dispatched Oromo to investigate.

A week later, he arrived in the village, but the Monyomiji refused to speak with him. "They were suspicious of me," Oromo said. Some residents spoke with him in private, expressing regret about the killing, but he was unable to identify a culprit.

Stonewalled, Oromo returned to Torit. But he visited Lohobohobo again in June as part of a wider tour of the villages under his administration. He spoke to the community about the realities of climate change "as a global issue" and the importance of the rule of law, telling the Monyomiji "not to repeat what had happened [to Otüre]", and offering a vague warning that if they did, "the government will take a serious step".

Though people in the village may have been angry with Otüre, it is unclear how much popular support there was for his killing.

The community was warned not to report Otüre's murder to the police, multiple people told Al Jazeera.

Oromo said when he first visited Lohobohobo, some expressed regret, apologised for what the Monyomiji had done, and said they had been warned to keep quiet. Other acknowledgements of Otüre's death, like open mourning or holding a funeral, were banned, he said.

Oyet said anyone who held a funeral would be seen as “rebellious against the community”.

In Lohobohobo, some residents reshaped the details of Otire's death, while others sidestepped mention of him entirely.

One person initially said Otire had killed himself, before conceding that he was buried

alive when asked about local media reports.

Another resident, when asked about the punishment of rainmakers in Lohobohobo, said a rainmaker had recently been “chased away” from the village, never to return. When asked for the rainmaker's name, the man, visibly uncomfortable, leaned in and whispered, “Solomon”.

## ‘GREAT PAIN’

Otire's son, John, had been living abroad for a decade before he arrived in Juba in August 2024. When he was eight years old, Otire sent him to live in the Kakuma refugee camp, in northern Kenya, away from the war unfolding in South Sudan. The two had spoken on the phone only a handful of times since.

In November, John received a call from his cousin informing him of his father's death. He hung up the phone angrily. Despite the complicated relationship John had with his father, the news “caused me great pain”, he said.

Nevertheless, he was circumspect when asked about the Monyomiji. “I don't have any issues with them,” he said. “They had a problem with my father, not with me.”

He pondered the possibility of visiting Lohobohobo one day and smiled as he searched for his grandmother's hut in the pictures of the village.

John said he hoped that mob justice would not be inflicted on a rainmaker again and that “this story will encourage generations to come not to do the same thing”.

Meanwhile, this year's agricultural season has been only marginally better. Late rains

caused widespread crop failures during the first planting season, which typically begins in March. By July, when the rains began in earnest, farmers had spent months planting and replanting crops that would not grow.

Pietro, the farmer, may again leave his family to search for work. “Because the situation is still bad, I may go back [to Juba],” he said. “We plant, and it fails.”

Climate conditions are likely to get worse. By 2060, the hottest month in the region is projected to increase by more than 7 degrees Celsius (12.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

“People are discouraged, and they are going away from here,” said Oromo. “There is no hope for the rain.”

*\*Name has been changed to protect the interviewee's identity.*

Source: [Death of a rainmaker: When drought means murder in South Sudan | Climate Crisis News | Al Jazeera](#)

# RWANDA

## IMF REACHES STAFF-LEVEL AGREEMENT ON THE SIXTH REVIEW OF THE POLICY COORDINATION INSTRUMENT AND CONDUCTS DISCUSSION ON THE 2025 ARTICLE IV CONSULTATION WITH RWANDA

OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 2025

Washington, DC: From September 29 to October 10, 2025, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission team, led by Albert Touna Mama, discussed the authorities' policy priorities and progress on reforms within the context of the sixth and final review of Rwanda's Policy Coordination Instrument (PCI), and the 2025 Article IV consultation. Consideration by the IMF Executive Board is tentatively scheduled for December 2025.

At the conclusion of the mission, Mr. Touna Mama issued the following statement:

"Despite facing consecutive shocks, Rwanda's economy continues to demonstrate strength and resilience. Using the rebased GDP series, the economy grew by 7.2 percent both in 2024 and the first half of 2025, supported by robust performance of services, construction, and coffee exports. Inflation remained within the National Bank of Rwanda's (NBR) target range of 5±3 percent. The current account deficit widened in the first half of 2025 due to higher imports of consumer and capital goods, offsetting stronger coffee and minerals exports. The Rwandan franc depreciated by around 3 percent against the US dollar through end-June 2025, and international reserves covered 4.8 months of imports, providing a buffer against external shocks.

"Notwithstanding a challenging environment, macroeconomic policy performance through end-June 2025 remained in line with program objectives under the PCI. All quantitative targets were met, and the NBR has conducted supplementary, competitive auctions to facilitate price discovery. Draft amendment

to strengthen the NBR Law is expected to be submitted to Cabinet in time for the completion of the sixth PCI review. The completion of this final review will mark the successful conclusion of a three-year program that has helped anchor macroeconomic stability, strengthen policy credibility, and advance key structural reforms.

"With growth set to remain strong, inflation within target range, and external balances supported by investment-related inflows, the economic outlook remains positive with risks tilted to the downside. Global commodity price volatility, weakening external demand, and tighter global financing conditions would weigh on the outlook. Upside risks include an improved external environment, supportive trade and investment flows, and faster external adjustment.

"Recurrent shocks in recent years and the financing needs of priority projects have challenged the authorities' efforts to durably rebuild policy buffers. The full implementation of the recently adopted tax package will help to place the tax-to-GDP ratio on an upward trajectory and reinforce debt sustainability.

Despite this crucial reform to boost domestic revenue, borrowing related to the construction of the New Kigali International Airport will push public debt towards 80 percent of GDP by 2027 and increase debt service obligations. To mitigate debt vulnerabilities and rebuild policy space to respond to shocks, the authorities will need to ensure continued fiscal consolidation anchored in domestic revenue mobilization, containing fiscal spending through careful expenditure rationalization and project prioritization, and continuing to strengthen their capacity to mitigate fiscal risks from state-owned enterprises.

"Monetary policy should continue to be proactive, data-driven and forward-looking with clear communication to anchor inflation within the target range. Exchange rate flexibility should continue to play a critical role in helping address imbalances and facilitate the development of a competitive export sector.

**Source:** [\*IMF Reaches Staff-level Agreement on the Sixth Review of the Policy Coordination Instrument and Conducts Discussion on the 2025 Article IV Consultation with Rwanda\*](#)

"Structural reforms should continue to aim at unlocking inclusive and durable growth. Despite remarkable progress, development and climate-related needs remain pressing. Priorities include building resilience to climate shocks and raising export competitiveness through lower barriers to entry and stronger regional integration. Continued efforts to advance climate projects will help attract further climate financing and strengthen Rwanda's resilience.

"The mission is grateful for the authorities' excellent cooperation as well as the candid discussions. As Rwanda approaches the successful conclusion of the PCI, the IMF remains committed to supporting Rwanda in continuing to build on its strong policy foundations and advancing ongoing reform and development agenda."

# SUDAN

## BATTLE FOR SUDAN'S EL-FASHER INTENSIFIES AS RSF CLAIMS SEIZING ARMY HQ

OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> 2025

Despite this apparent victory for the paramilitary group, the besieged city of el-Fasher's status has not changed.

Fighting has intensified in Sudan's besieged city of el-Fasher in North Darfur, as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group claimed it had captured a government-aligned Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) base seen as their last stronghold in the western region.

An RSF spokesperson said in a statement on Sunday that its forces "managed to liberate the 6th Division in el-Fasher, breaking the back of the army and its allies by establishing full control over this strategic military base".

He called the development a significant turning point and "a step on the path to building a new state that all Sudanese will participate in establishing according to their aspirations for freedom, peace, and justice".

A video posted by the RSF showed its soldiers cheering in front of a sign for the SAF's Sixth Infantry base.

### CONTROL OF EL-FASHER

Due to the siege, "the army had difficulty resupplying and reinforcing its soldiers and forces" at the military base, said Morgan, adding that there are layers to the unfolding situation.

"What we understand from military sources is that when the RSF took over the army division there, SAF forces themselves were not present inside the base itself," she added.

The Reuters news agency said it was able to verify the location but not the date.

Al Jazeera's Hiba Morgan, reporting from Sudan's capital, Khartoum, said the RSF takeover of the SAF base in el-Fasher comes after months of siege and days of heavy fighting.

The RSF has been laying siege to el-Fasher for the past 18 months as it fought the Sudanese army and allied former rebels and local fighters. It has targeted civilians in frequent drone and artillery attacks, while the siege has caused acute suffering and spread starvation in the city, where 250,000 people remain under fire.

The SAF did not immediately give a statement on its current position.

"They had withdrawn and rebased themselves around the city, so technically, while the RSF does control the infantry division that used to belong to the Sudanese army there, it does not

have full control of the city of el-Fasher itself.”

Capturing el-Fasher would be a significant military and political victory for the RSF, and could hasten a physical split of the country by enabling the paramilitary group to consolidate its control over the vast Darfur region, which it has identified as the base for a parallel government established this summer.

Justin Lynch, the managing director of the Conflict Insights Group, told Al Jazeera that the RSF’s siege on el-Fasher is part of a strategy to take over all of Darfur.

“What they want to say is claim that they represent all of Darfur in negotiations, so that during the talks that are happening now, they can have a much better claim and a much better negotiating position,” Lynch told Al Jazeera from Nairobi.

“They’ve been having a siege for the past 18 months, and so, with the fall of the army barracks, it looks destined that the city of el-Fasher is going to fall,” he said.

Activists have long warned that an RSF takeover of the city would also lead to ethnic attacks, as seen after the capture of the Zamzam camp to the south.

Last week, the RSF said it was facilitating the exit of civilians and surrendered fighters from el-Fasher, but those who have left have reported robberies, sexual assaults, and killings by RSF soldiers on the way.

A United Nations-mandated mission said last month that the RSF had committed multiple crimes against humanity in the siege of el-Fasher. SAF has also been accused of atrocities.

Four UN agencies warned this week that thousands of children face imminent death as they remain cut off from food and healthcare.

UN expert Radhouane Nouicer raised concerns this week about intensifying drone attacks by both sides. RSF attacks on power infrastructure on Tuesday knocked out electricity across multiple cities and injured six workers.

For a fourth consecutive day on Friday, RSF drones targeted Khartoum International airport, which the army had hoped to reopen after retaking the capital in March. The reopening has been postponed as a result.

The conflict, which began in April 2023, has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced 12 million and left 30 million in need of aid, making it the world’s largest humanitarian crisis.

In recent months, United States President Donald Trump has repeatedly promised to intensify efforts to end the war in Sudan. But with his foreign policy focus zeroed in on shoring up a fragile Gaza ceasefire and finding a way to reach any type of ceasefire in Russia’s war in Ukraine, as well as trade deals, Sudan has not been a priority.

*Source: Battle for Sudan's el-Fasher intensifies as RSF claims seizing army HQ | Sudan war News | Al Jazeera*

# WAR IN SUDAN: HUMANITARIAN, FIGHTING, CONTROL DEVELOPMENTS, OCTOBER 2025

## THE EL-FASHER MASSACRE IN LATE OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTED THAT THE WAR IN SUDAN SHOWS LITTLE SIGN OF ABATING.

OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> 2025

---

Sudan's civil war between the regular army known as the Sudan Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces continues unabated.

The conflict is well into its third year and has seen both sides allegedly commit war crimes and crimes against humanity. In addition,

the RSF is implicated in atrocities that may amount to genocide, especially in the sprawling western region of Darfur.

Here is the key battlefield, humanitarian and political developments from this month.

### FIGHTING AND MILITARY CONTROL

- The RSF now effectively controls the entire western region of Darfur after capturing the besieged city of el-Fasher on October 26.
- During the RSF's invasion of el-Fasher, it began a campaign of mass killing against civilians fleeing to remote villages and towns. The local monitor, Sudan Doctors Network, said at least 1,500 people were murdered in 48 hours.
- The RSF also captured the strategic town of Baraa in North Kordofan state at the end of October. The RSF was reported to have committed acute human rights abuses in Baraa. According to the Sudan Doctors Network, at least 47 people were murdered in their homes, and more than 4,500 people have been uprooted to surrounding towns and cities.

With the capture of Baraa and el-Fasher, the RSF is now poised to attack North Kordofan's capital, el-Obeid. The loss of the city could prove to be a major setback for the SAF, since the city operates as a major buffer to protect central and eastern Sudan, which the army controls.

### HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

- Tens of thousands of civilians remain trapped in el-Fasher and hiding from RSF troops in underground trenches, or they are trekking in the middle of the desert to reach towns roughly 60 kilometres (37 miles) away.

- Prior to the RSF's capture of el-Fasher, it had imposed a suffocating siege on the city for more than 18 months. The siege forced hundreds of thousands of residents to try and flee, while those who remained staved off starvation by eating animal fodder known locally as "ambaz". Those now trekking through the desert to reach safety risk dying of thirst and hunger on the road.
- The UN's top aid official, Tom Fletcher, said that "women and girls are being raped and people being mutilated" as he described the terrifying plight of people trying to flee el-Fasher.
- According to the International Organisation for Migration, just more than 33,000 people have reached nearby towns. New arrivals do not have adequate shelter or food aid, and most people are relying on local volunteers for sustenance.
- The situation in North Kordofan is also catastrophic. The Sudan Doctors Network said that about 1,900 people reached el-Obeid from Bara. Most are sleeping in open-air huts without roofs or adequate sanitation.
- Despite famine levels of hunger spreading across Sudan, the SAF took the measure of declaring two top World Food Program officials as "persona non grata", raising concerns about the SAF's commitment to mitigating the hunger crisis. Sudan's state-run news agency claimed that the officials violated their "neutrality" without offering further explanation.
- WFP said in a statement that the expulsions of two of its top officials "jeopardises" their humanitarian operations at a time when 24 million people are acutely food insecure across the country.

## DIPLOMACY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The United States, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Saudi Arabia – four countries engaged in mediation efforts in Sudan and collectively known as the Quad – met in Washington to discuss implementing a roadmap to end the war on October 25. The Quad reportedly made little progress and merely agreed to form a symbolic "joint committee" to end the conflict.
- The diplomatic meeting occurred two days before the RSF invaded el-Fasher and committed new atrocities. The RSF has previously exploited mediation forums and peace talks to wage major offensives. For example, in November 2023, the [RSF captured four out of the five states in Darfur](#) in a lightning rod attack shortly after ceasefire talks had stalled in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- On October 16, [SAF chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan met Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi](#) to discuss a possible ceasefire.
- Diplomacy to end the war has so far failed to meaningfully mitigate atrocities or secure a basic ceasefire.

Source: [War in Sudan: Humanitarian, fighting, control developments, October 2025 | Sudan war News | Aljazeera](#)



CSPS  
**MONITOR**



**CENTER FOR STRATEGIC  
AND POLICY STUDIES**  
*Living the future today*

© 2025 CSPS. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission in writing from CSPS, except in the case of brief quotations in news articles, critical articles, or reviews. Please direct inquiries to: CSPS

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://cspss.org.ss>