Africa
Combined Agenda 2063 scenario

Mustapha Jobarteh
Combined Agenda 2063 scenario

Chart 55: GDP per capita in CP and scenarios, 2019–2043
Additional GDP per capita per scenario, purchasing power parity

The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario consists of the combination of all 11 sectoral scenarios presented above, namely the Stability, Demographic, Health/WaSH, Agriculture, Education, Manufacturing/Transfers, Leapfrogging, Free Trade, Financial Flows, Infrastructure and Governance scenarios. The cumulative impact of better education, health, infrastructure, etc. means that countries get an additional benefit in the integrated IFs forecasting platform that we refer to as the synergistic effect. Chart 55 presents the contribution of each of these 12 components to GDP per capita in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario as a stacked area graph.

In 2019, the GDP per capita in Africa was US$5,289 and will increase to US$7,157 in the Current Path forecast by 2043. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, the GDP per capita increases significantly to US$11,216 in 2043 — a difference of US$4,059, or 57%, above the 2043 Current Path forecast. The largest contribution comes from the synergistic effect — the extent to which the rising tide of better investments in labour capital and technology combine to raise all boats. Next to the synergistic effect, the Free Trade scenario has the largest positive impact, reflecting the huge potential that the full implementation of the AfCFTA has on Africa’s prospects, followed by the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. The Financial Flows and Health/WaSH scenarios make the smallest contribution to the GDP per capita by 2043.
Whereas Chart 55 presents a stacked area graph on the contribution of each scenario to GDP per capita as well as the additional benefit or synergistic effect, Chart 56 presents only the GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario.

Regionally, West Africa grows most rapidly, experiencing an 85% increase in the GDP per capita above the Current Path forecast in 2043, followed by Central Africa (82% increase), East Africa (77% increase), Southern Africa (60% increase) and North Africa (42% increase). However, North Africa comes from a much higher base. Its GDP per capita in 2019 was almost double that of the second most prosperous region, Southern Africa. Central Africa and the Horn/East Africa come from a much lower base than other regions with a GDP per capita of US$5 206 and US$4 538, respectively.

In absolute terms, Namibia gains the most from the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario. In 2043, its GDP per capita is US$7 968 larger than the Current Path forecast for that year, followed by Eswatini (US$7 739 larger) and Seychelles (US$6 922 larger). The countries that gain the least are the Central African Republic (US$1 141 larger), Somalia (US$995 larger) and Burundi (US$878 larger).

Using the per cent increase above the 2043 Current Path forecast as a measure of improvement, Malawi does the best (135% above the Current Path forecast), followed by Madagascar (112%) and Uganda (99%). The countries that gain the least in per cent increase above the 2043 Current Path forecast are Seychelles (20.7% increase), Mauritius (17.5% increase) and Equatorial Guinea (17% increase) since they all come from a much higher base.
The poverty rate (at the US$1.90 poverty line) in Africa is set to reduce from 34.8 to 20.9% and the number of poor people from 454.9 million people to 467.7 million between 2019 and 2043, respectively. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, the poverty rate will decline significantly to 6.4%. This will equal 331.3 million fewer people in poverty compared to the Current Path forecast in 2043. Regionally, extreme poverty (at the US$1.90 poverty line) was highest in Central Africa (54.8%) and Southern Africa (44.7%) and lowest in North Africa (1.3%) in 2019. Compared to the 2043 Current Path forecast, the Combined 2063 Agenda will reduce poverty rates most in Central Africa (by 26 percentage points) and Southern Africa (19 percentage points), and least in North Africa (0.5 percentage points) because of its low base.
See Chart 8 to view the Current Path forecast of the sectoral composition of the economy.

The service and ICT sectors will add to the share of GDP by 4.7% and 0.47% respectively, while all other sectors will reduce in significance in share of GDP; the least being manufacturing at -2.18 percentage points. In terms of the value of contribution, the service sector will make the greatest contribution to GDP in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenarios of US$4.316 billion followed in a distant second by manufacturers of US$1.123 trillion, and the least contributor to GDP is the energy sector US$70.31 billion. Across all income groups, the agriculture share of GDP will decline in the Combined 2063 Agenda scenario compared to the 2043 Current Path forecast, while services share will increase. Nigeria alone will add US$1.292 billion worth of services to GDP in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario.
In the Current Path forecast, Africa’s economy will grow from US$3.055 trillion to US$8.724 trillion in 2043. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, the African economy is set to increase to US$15.238 trillion, nearly double the Current Path forecast in 2043.

Despite the enormous gain, this will be less than 10% of the size of the rest of the world economy but greater than the 2043 Current Path forecast for South Asia (US$15 227 billion). Nigeria will make up 25% of the US$15 trillion economy.
Carbon emission will increase from 422 million tons in 2019 to 939 million tons in 2043 in the Current Path forecast. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenarios, carbon emissions are set to increase to 1.209 billion tons in 2043, 270 million tons more compared to the Current Path forecast. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, Africa will cause more damage to the environment than North America (1.123 million tons) and Europe (887,000 tons) in 2043 in the Current Path forecast. Nigeria (289 million tons), Egypt (177 million tons) and South Africa (115 million tons) will be the largest carbon emitters in the 2043 Combined Agenda 2063 scenario. São Tomé and Príncipe by virtue of its size will be the least carbon emitter at 130,000 tons of carbon.
Donors and sponsors

Reuse our work

- All visualizations, data, and text produced by African Futures are completely open access under the Creative Commons BY license. You have the permission to use, distribute, and reproduce these in any medium, provided the source and authors are credited.

- The data produced by third parties and made available by African Futures is subject to the license terms from the original third-party authors. We will always indicate the original source of the data in our documentation, so you should always check the license of any such third-party data before use and redistribution.

- All of our charts can be embedded in any site.

Cite this research

About the authors

Mustapha Jobarteh joined the ISS in January 2022 as a Senior Researcher in the African Futures and Innovation programme in Pretoria. Before joining ISS, Mustapha was a senior lecturer and Head of the Department of Economics and Finance at the University of the Gambia and a research fellow with the Center for Policy, Research and Strategic Studies. His interests include macroeconomics, international trade and econometric modelling. Mustapha has a PhD in economics from Istanbul Medeniyet University, Istanbul, Turkey.

About African Futures & Innovation

Scenarios and forecasting can help Africa identify and respond to opportunities and threats. The work of the African Futures & Innovation (AFI) program at the Institute for Security Studies aims to understand and address a widening gap between indices of wellbeing in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The AFI helps stakeholders understand likely future developments. Research findings and their policy implications are widely disseminated, often in collaboration with in-country partners. Forecasting tools inspire debate and provide insights into possible trajectories that inform planning, prioritisation and effective resource allocation. Africa’s future depends on today’s choices and actions by governments and their non-governmental and international partners. The AFI provides empirical data that informs short- and medium-term decisions with long-term implications. The AFI enhances Africa’s capacity to prepare for and respond to future challenges. The program is headed by Dr Jakkie Cilliers.