South Sudan

Combined Agenda 2063 scenario

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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, which 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.

The synergistic effect of all the scenarios on GDP per capita is US\$62.1 in 2043.

The scenario with the most significant impact on GDP per capita by 2043 is Stability, followed by Agriculture. Health/WaSH has the least impact on GDP per capita. This suggests that harnessing the country's agricultural potential and increasing internal stability is key to improving human and economic development in South Sudan.

Chart 55 presents a stacked area graph of the contribution of each scenario to GDP per capita, as well as the additional benefit or synergistic effect, whereas Chart 56 presents only GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario.

In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, it is expected that the government of Sudan will make a concerted effort to remove the binding constraints on growth and inclusive development.

The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario has a much greater impact on GDP per capita than the individual thematic scenarios.

By 2033, GDP per capita is US\$364 more in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario than in the Current Path forecast. By 2043 it is expected to increase to US\$3 805, which is US\$1 327 more than in the Current Path forecast for that year.

The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario shows that a policy push across all the development sectors is necessary to achieve sustained growth and development in South Sudan.

In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, 43.5% of the South Sudanese population will be living in extreme poverty by 2033, compared with 53.1% in the Current Path forecast. This represents about 1.1 million fewer people than in the Current Path forecast.

By 2043, the extreme poverty rate declines to 27.7% (3.6 million people), compared with 50.3% (6.8 million people) in the Current Path forecast, representing a reduction of 3.2 million people.

The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario shows that a concerted policy push across all the development sectors could significantly reduce poverty in South Sudan.

See Chart 8 to view the Current Path forecast of the sectoral composition of the economy.

As a percentage, the agriculture sector records the largest improvement in contribution to GDP compared with the Current Path forecast. This lasts until 2029, by when it will be overtaken by the service sector. By 2043, the contribution of the service sector in this scenario is nearly six percentage points larger than in the Current Path forecast. The contributions from the agriculture and manufacturing sectors are 1.3 and 1.4 percentage points above the respective Current Path forecasts. However, the share of the energy sector will be 10.5 percentage points below the Current Path forecast.

In absolute value, the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario results in the service sector representing the most significant improvement, with its value US\$10.3 billion larger than in the Current Path forecast for 2043. The service sector is followed by the agriculture sector, with its 2043 value in the Agenda 2063 scenario being US\$1.2 billion larger than in the Current Path forecast.

The contributions from materials, ICT and energy to GDP are US\$100 million, US\$900 million and US\$200 million larger, respectively, than the Current Path's forecasts for 2043. Going forward, services will become the dominant sector of the South Sudanese economy, although manufactures will grow appreciably in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario.

The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario dramatically impacts South Sudan's economic expansion. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, the size of the economy is projected to expand from US\$7.4 billion in 2019 to US\$29.6 billion in 2043, which represents a 300% increase over the period, compared with 120% on the Current Path.

By 2043, the GDP of South Sudan will be US\$13.3 billion larger in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario than on the Current Path.

The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario shows that a policy push across all development sectors is a viable approach to achieving sustained growth and development in South Sudan.

The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario significantly impacts carbon emissions, albeit from a very low base, owing to the increased economic activity.

In this scenario, carbon emissions increase from 0.43 million tons in 2019 to 3.3 million tons by 2043, an increase of 667.4%. In the Current Path forecast carbon emissions increase by 458% over the same period.

In 2043, the carbon emissions in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario is 0.88 million tons higher than in the Current Path forecast.

If the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario materialises, it would stimulate high economic growth and reduce poverty significantly in South Sudan, but the cost in terms of environmental degradation will be relatively high.

To mitigate the environmental impact of the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, its implementation should be accompanied by concrete steps to accelerate the green energy transition.

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Dr Kouassi Yeboua is a senior researcher in African Futures and Innovation programme in Pretoria. He recently served as lead author on ISS studies on the long-term development prospects of the DR Congo, the Horn of Africa, Nigeria and Malawi. Kouassi has published on various issues relating to foreign direct investment in Africa and is interested in development economics, macroeconomics, international economics, and economic modelling. He has a PhD in Economics.

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