



Leapfrogging

Impact of the Leapfrogging and Large Infrastructure scenario

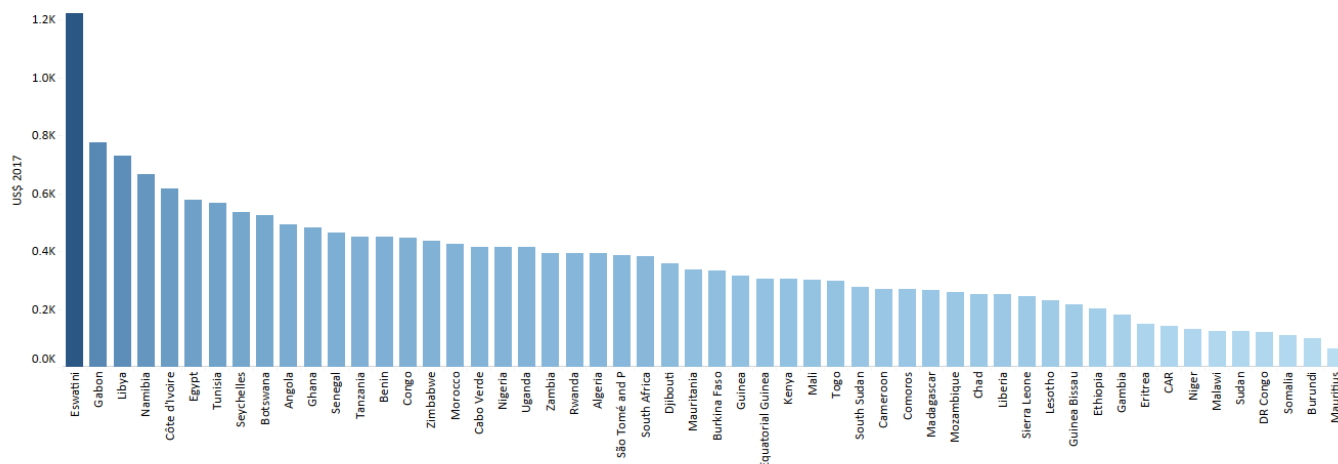
Jakkie Cilliers

Last updated 14 January 2025 using IFs v7.84

Impact of the Leapfrogging and Large Infrastructure scenario

The impact of the Leapfrogging and Large Infrastructure scenario is that the average growth rate for Africa from 2023 to 2043 improves by 0.24 percentage points. This results in an African economy that is US\$602 billion larger in 2043 than in the Current Path forecast. Consequently, there is a strong increase in GDP per capita, reflected in Chart 9.

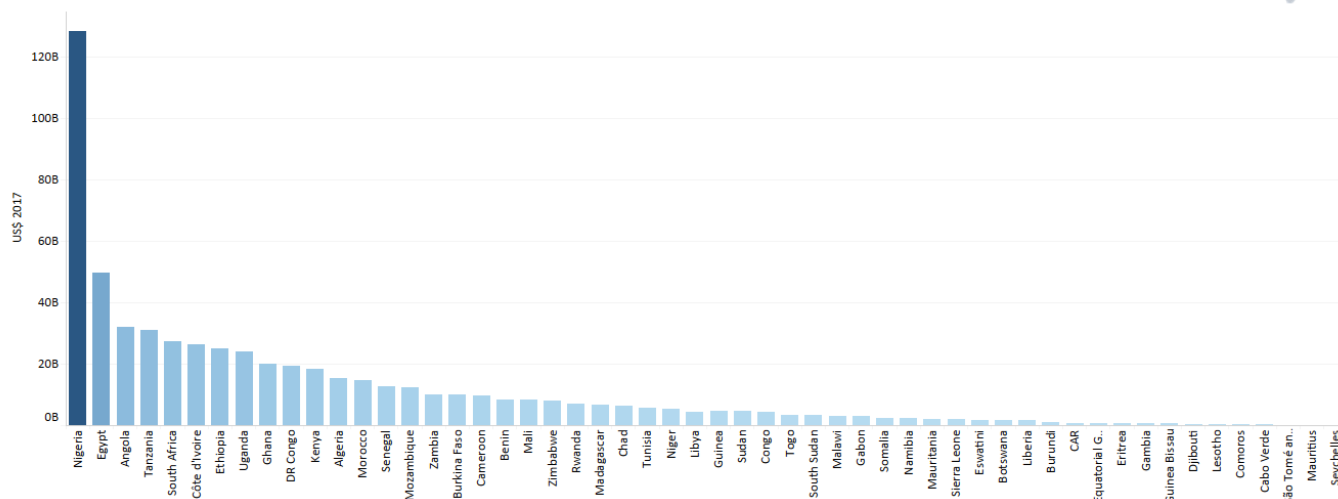
Chart 9: Difference in GDP per capita in 2043: Leapfrogging and Large Infrastructure scenario vs Current Path



Source: Ifs 7.84 Initialising from UNDP World Population Prospect medium variant life expectancy and WDI data

All countries experience an increase in the size of their economies. Chart 10 presents the difference in the size of each African economy in 2043 in the Leapfrogging and Large Infrastructure scenario compared to the Current Path. The user can choose between absolute difference and per cent increase in the size of the economy

Chart 10: Difference in GDP in 2043: Leapfrogging and Large Infrastructure scenario vs Current Path



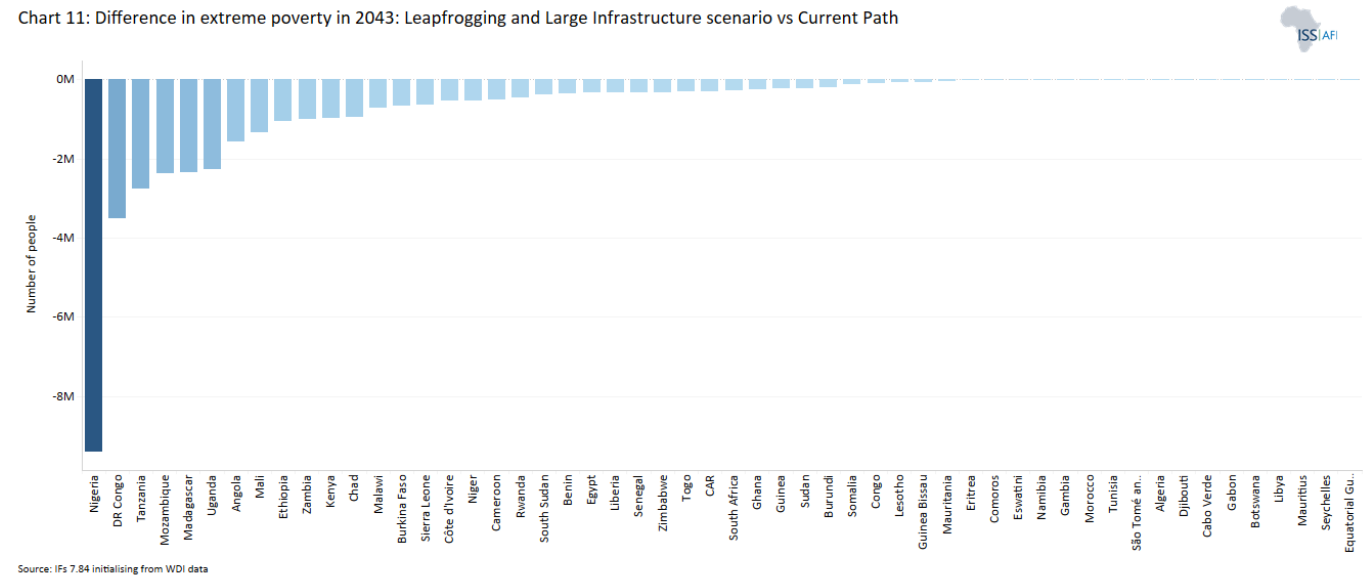
Source: Ifs 7.84 Initialising from IMF World Economic Outlook database

Four countries experience an increase in the size of their economy of more than 15% namely Uganda, Madagascar, Central African Republic and Burundi. Fifteen other countries experience a more than 10% increase in their economy from Leapfrogging and Large Infrastructure scenario; 27 other countries experience between five and 10 percentage point increases.

Because the size of the economies being compared is quite different, the actual dollar numbers are much more impressive. For example, the Nigerian economy will, in 2043, be US\$126 billion bigger than in the Current Path—the

largest increase in absolute terms—followed by Egypt at US\$52 billion. The corresponding figures for Angola and South Africa, other large economies, are US\$32 billion and US\$29 billion, respectively.

Leapfrogging is not only about improving growth, infrastructure and income. The Leapfrogging and Large Infrastructure scenario will also reduce poverty in Africa. Madagascar, a low-income country, will benefit the most, reducing its 2043 poverty headcount (using the US\$1.90 benchmark) by five percentage points below the Current Path. Sierra Leone, a lower-middle-income country, will reduce its poverty headcount (also using the US\$1.90 benchmark) by 4.8 percentage points below the Current Path. The impact of countries with low poverty rates is minimal or negative.



The [Large Infrastructure theme](#) contains additional analysis on the scenario's impact related to various other measures.

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About the authors

Dr Jakkie Cilliers is the ISS's founder and former executive director. He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees, head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the Institute, and is an extraordinary professor at the University of Pretoria. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

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