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Political Instability in Africa Impacts on Agricultural Value Chains



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RETURN OF THE PLANTATIONS

Abstract

Africa has known a good number of conflicts and some are currently going on. Instability leads to limited political freedom and limited social advantages such as food, health, education and shelter. For the past seven years, African conflicts have generated over 9 million refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDP). Thousands of people have seen their living conditions hardly disturbed due to conflicts and instability. Food and Nutrition have an iterative relationship with conflict as both can cause each other; also, both have impacts on the balance of trade and development indicators. Efficient agricultural value chains create competitiveness and accelerate industrialisation. Though they have the ability to advance economic partnership and competition, in most African countries, agricultural value chains remain underdeveloped and underexploited; moreover,

they are hardly affected by political instability with direct consequences on society. Regional integration with many spill-over, affects agriculture, while food prices and countries' macroeconomic policies affects food security. Recommendations are made to put in place strong conflict prevention indicators, efficient and sustainable conflicts resolutions, regional integration facilities with larger market coverage, equitable allocation of resources among populations, effective human capital and mobility improvement, applied agricultural research and related activities development, effective production and manufacturing diversification, and, increased domestic saving as well as investment increase.

Key words: Political Instability, Conflicts, Agricultural Value Chains, Food Security, Africa

Résumé

L'Afrique a connu un bon nombre de conflits et certains se poursuivent actuellement. L'instabilité limite la liberté politique et les avantages sociaux tels que la nourriture, la santé, l'éducation et le logement. Au cours des sept dernières années, les conflits africains ont généré plus de 9 millions de réfugiés et de personnes déplacées. Des milliers de personnes ont vu leurs conditions de vie perturbées par les conflits et l'instabilité. L'alimentation et la nutrition ont une relation itérative avec le conflit, car chacun peut causer l'autre ; de plus, les deux ont des effets sur la balance de commerce et les indicateurs de développement. Des chaînes de valeurs agricoles efficaces créent une compétitivité et accélèrent l'industrialisation. Bien qu'elles soient en mesure de faire progresser le partenariat et la concurrence économique, dans la plupart des pays africains, les

chaînes de valeurs agricoles restent sous-développées et sous-exploitées; de plus, elles sont très affectées par l'instabilité politique, avec des conséquences directes sur la société. L'intégration régionale avec de nombreuses retombées, affecte l'agriculture, les prix alimentaires et les politiques macroéconomiques des pays affectent la sécurité alimentaire. Les recommandations faites sont : la mise en place des indicateurs pour la prévention des conflits, l'adoption des résolutions de conflits efficaces et durables, l'intégration régionale ayant une plus grande couverture du marché, la répartition équitable des ressources entre populations, l'amélioration du capital humain et de sa mobilité, la recherche agricole appliquée et le développement de ses activités, l'épargne domestique et l'augmentation des investissements.

Mots clés: Instabilité Politique, Conflits, Chaînes de valeurs agricoles, Sécurité Alimentaire, Afrique

1. Introduction

Armed conflicts in Africa keep oscillating. Their levels of violence and perpetration methods remain different; recent elections in Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe illustrate this well. Different sources of information reveal that armed conflicts peaked in 1990 and 1991 during the end of the Cold War, a decline was noticed around 2005 and 2006; they stabilised in 2010 and 2011 to rise back in 2015. Among these increases, Egypt, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were classified among the top five countries of extreme risk zone [1]. Specialists predict that Egypt and

Libya might experience high levels of dynamic political risk for years to come; this come along with many struggles. Improvements in the level of governance and social indications can help lower risk levels of instability. Most conflicts result in limited democratic freedoms, inflation of food prices and worse working conditions [2, 3, 4]. There is negative relationship between Instability and political freedom and, social gains. In 2010, prior to the Arab Spring, Libya, Tunisia, Iran, Syria and Egypt were among the countries with the biggest divide between political freedoms and social gains and this harshly affected their populations according to the Institute for Security Studies [1].

Political instability has been a constant piece of the post-colonial setting in Africa. Some influencing factors originate from political fights, Cold War, ethnic antagonisms, rent-seeking behaviours, social misunderstanding and injustice. Political instability has become widespread in Sub-Saharan Africa. From the early 1960s, when African countries began to obtain independence, more than fifty coups have occurred [5, 6]. The results have been detrimental to economic development. For Mbaku [7], relationship between elite political instability and economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa have to be studied. Lack of political stability has contributed significantly to economic stagnation in the black continent. Most of its leaders want to follow nation-building initiatives while legitimising their hold of power and these are not always complementary. Political measures adopted can weaken the overall comfort of the country [2, 7, 8]. The immediate concern should be to create a consensus in favour of efficient and social wellbeing oriented systems. Tensions are expressed in terms of ethnic, cultural and other kind of conflicts. The major cause of problems is dispute of leadership. And because of this, African freedom heroes become dictators, while natural resources remain wrongly exploited. Political instability in Africa undermine the right procedure and society that are expected to care for democracy and to inspire a sense of stability for community development. In combination poverty, disease, violence are thought to emanate from the external interests targeting the African natural resources [9, 10, 11].

Currently, there are ongoing conflicts in different regions of the continent. Three years after the Arab Spring, more than 60% of countries in the Middle East and North Africa region have experienced a significant rise in political violence, revealing that forced regime are closely linked to long-term

political risks [12, 13]. In East African countries, the risk of political violence, including terrorism and poor governance is on the rise. Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan are categorised as extreme risk territories; Kenya and Ethiopia are termed “high risk” and change of risk might occur in Eritrea, Tanzania and Mozambique [1, 3, 7]. In the West, the impact of the global financial crisis is noticeable when we consider high levels of unemployment and underemployment which is a crucial factor of inequality and declining living standards. This state of affairs is detrimental for business to flourish and attract foreign investors.

For African states to attract Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), they should ensure political stability. Foreign investments will flow and improve many sectors of the economy through qualified products and markets, upgraded employments and industries, as well as technologies transfer. Results can easily be visible thanks to efficient value chains. Political stability is a solid background which guarantees peace, availability of skills labour, development of the private sector, building of infrastructure facilities and stable macroeconomic performance [9, 11, 13, 15]. Taking the case of Tanzania, this East African harbour enjoys economic and political stability, which continue to attract several FDI in many sectors (Mining, beverage, and telecommunications). The government of Tanzania dedicates higher portion of the country's budget to education specifically the development of training specialists, human capacities and technology transfer as preconditions for enhancing productivity. The country's private sector has transformed the economy, as building infrastructures figure among key investment drivers. These have been preconditions for its constant stable macroeconomic performance.

Despite demotivated predictions and some hard times experienced by a few countries, also considering challenges posed by poverty and diseases, most African economies are thriving; trade quantities and foreign investments have increased over time. Though international trade in Africa been hardly influenced by corruption, trade laws, political conflicts and instability. Some authors find opportunities in political instability such as conflict resolution and peace building initiatives [13, 14, 16, 17]. If these apply, then inflation and debt will reduce while factors of production increase.

In January 2000, over half of the countries in Africa were affected by conflicts. These resulted in high number of life loss, massive population movements; economic indicators were hardly hit and this seriously hamper the development of the continent. Clearly, efficient solutions are needed to reduce people and goods destruction and address global security risk [16]. To properly understand causes of African conflicts, the evaluation should consider local, regional and international determinants. Among background factors we have colonialism, the Cold War and the new World Order; complemented by social, political and economic inequalities. Secondary causes originate from ideas and aspects which enable and sustain conflicts among which unemployment, lack of education, population pressure, ethnic hatred and availability of arms. Tertiary causes are those which hinder resolutions originating from complexity due to interlocking conflicts; resolutions not properly consolidated; inadequate mediation/communication and inappropriate humanitarian assistance [9, 11, 13]. Responsible investment in areas of natural resource wealth, appropriate mediation that can foster stable and equitable political structures and support to African peace-keeping capacities remain commendable. Appropriate humanitarian

interventions that effectively access those in need and supported by political and judicial actions are also recommended.

According to Kieh [3], the peripheral capitalist African state is the primary source of political instability on the continent. Specifically, the peripheral capitalist state has generated various crises such as poor regime that provoke political instability. Also, since the peripheral capitalist African state is a product and supplement of the global capitalist system, the latter contributes to instability in the former. Hence, in order to tackle the vulnerability of political stability, the peripheral capitalist African state must be democratically reconstituted, and fundamental changes have to be carried out in the global capitalist political economy. Fosu [9] questions how human development can be guaranteed through economic performance during political instability. For him frequent coups d'état in sub-Saharan Africa negatively affect human development. There is a need to uncover origins and causes of political instability in Africa and their impacts on agricultural value chains, and this constitute the aim of this paper.

In the agricultural sector, there are numerous drawbacks linked to inexistent or inefficient value chains. Some causes identified are: absence of farm to market roads, inadequate means of transportation, limited storage and warehouse facilities. At the regional and sub-regional levels, the problem escalates. African mostly trade with other continents while its intra-trade remains undeveloped even as many comparative trade advantages exist among states. This situation results in African continent being highly dependent for its diversified supplies (drugs, foods, clothes, furniture and services).

The inefficiency of agricultural value chains leads to many post-harvest losses and the few existing always get harshly impacted during conflict or instability. Impacts are later on felt in food, nutrition, human capital, natural resources supply and the overall impact affect countries' economic and social indicators.

2. Political instability pods and food security concerns

There have been over 9 million refugees and IDP from conflicts in Africa [19] these recent years. Thousands of people have lost lives in a good number of conflicts and civil wars. In the middle of 2011, the world's worst food crisis hit East Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya) caused by failed rains, in a continent where crop farming still heavily depends on rain not considering the increased alarm ranged by climate change experts [6, 12, 16]. The situation, predicted months ago, was avoidable. The situation resulted in high food prices which could not be sustained by many people and led to tensions and upheavals. The situation placed more than 12 million people in high need of food, clean water, and basic sanitation. Available labour force was reduced by massive killing and many pastoralist communities were affected. A wave of protests followed throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Originating from a combination of the global financial crisis, rising costs of living, high unemployment, especially of educated youth, frustration from decades of living under authoritarian and corrupt regimes among others [19, 20].

Some protests led to revolutions as they overthrew governments. Others did not go far, some have been peaceful, while other met with brutal

repression. The launched wave of democracy is hard to stop and unfortunately affect many aspects of community life among which the supply chains of basic utilities such as food [8, 13, 15].

Causes of instability have been diverse. The Democratic Republic of Congo has witnessed recurrent conflicts about basic resources and various political agenda, in Nigeria, the Delta of Niger Oil is a recurrent stability threat, while in the past, Sierra Leone fought over diamond, Ethiopia and Eritrea about the latter independence and its currency while Rwanda battled with ancient tribal hatreds. When we look at the 17 ongoing humanitarian crises worldwide, we find several occurring in Africa: Libya, Somalia, Nigeria, Mali, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan [17, 18, 19, 20, 21]. Across East and West Africa, reports highlight food security as a priority throughout. Access to portable water, sanitation infrastructure, proper health facilities and humanitarian access to affected communities are also limited.

Displacement across conflict-affected areas in Africa directly impacts a range of social, political, and economic process, and diminishes current development gains on the continent. During the first six months of 2017, about 2.7 million people were newly displaced, and there is an equivalent of 15,000 people forced from their homes daily [22, 23]. Roughly three-quarters of those were allegedly due to conflict and violence. With disrupted markets and reduced access to economic activities such as distributions channels, high levels of malnutrition, exacerbated poverty levels, and environmental degradation.

Spread of malnutrition and illness is striking the lack Chad Basin due to Boko Haram conflict. After nine years since its initial insurgency, the conflict that affect Northeast Nigeria, Southeast Niger, Western Chad, far North Niger and Cameroon has impacted more than 17 million people; 10.9 million of which are in high need of humanitarian aid. In 2018, food security, remain priority concerns, and aid is limited to major cities [18, 24]. Food insecurity touches 7.2 million people. This is partly caused by food unavailability at local markets as results of dysfunctional agricultural values chains. This makes raids on food very common. Continued violence and unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic might escalate in the coming months; and the need for food, shelter and protection of about 7.5 million in DRC alone will increase. The country has, in the world, the highest number of people displaced due to conflict. In Mali, robberies and intimidation incidents to local communities' dwellers have drastically reduce agricultural production and affect supply of food stuff in markets [4, 5, 9, 12]. This also impact agro-inputs sector. The porous borders with Northern Burkina Faso and Western Niger where constant sporadic attacks occur will increase the need for food security and access to farm inputs in that part of the continent as well.

In Sudan and South Sudan, 3.8 million people countrywide are food insecure. Internal displacement also limit access to normal economic activities. Protection, nutrition, and health remain priorities in 2018. In August 2017, the cost of staple foods such as maize and sorghum were twice as high compared to the same time during 2016. Rising fuel prices continue to influence mobility in agriculture. Spurred criminality among civilians and armed groups remain noticeable. In the Horn of

Africa, Peak violence has been noticed in Somalia, as drought across the country worsened, internally displacing 2 million people and exacerbating food insecurity for more than half the country's population [16, 18]. Weather previsions predict poor rainfalls across East Africa region, and the impacts will be felt by both Somalian and Ethiopian food sectors. Poor harvests, livestock losses, and rising food costs will continue to reduce purchasing power and access to nutritious meals of many and unmet humanitarian need will continue to decrease community resilience.

3. Impacts of instability on agricultural value chains

The question of how regional integration can advance global value chains to accelerate economic growth and achieve food security remain current. Tinta *et al.* [15] set the challenge by asking what is preferable between countries developing strategies to raise international trade or adopt policies reinforcing regional trade. The authors support regional integration needs which strengthen and better promote the stimulation of each country's potential to move from discontinuous to sustained growth. They conclude that international trade is not the better solution for West African countries to boost economic growth. Food security and economic growth constitute two challenges of contemporary economy in developing countries. As far as food security is concerned, there is an African say which state that: "a hungry man is an angry man" anger constitutes an origin of some conflicts. States should work hard to feed their populations, food and nutrition remains a very sensitive issue as it is entangled with sociological and anthropological considerations.

Economic growth remains the most important indicator used worldwide to rank, evaluate and deal with any country. It should be the utmost goal of each nation to insure that it depicts improvement of living conditions. Illustration affirms that low economic growth rate, weak industrial development and growing poverty characterise African countries due to poor human development, growing population living in urban slums with no access to elementary services, raise of corruption are disadvantages in global trade [4, 8, 9, 14].

In the case of West Africa, the GDP per capita increased very slowly; \$954 in 2010, \$1,051 in 2011, \$1,057 in 2012, and \$1,137 in 2014; in the meantime, other developing countries and the world experienced notable progress in reducing extreme poverty [15]. The economic growth rate in African countries has always been too low to sustain any development process. Subsequently, the erratic growth performance of African countries constitute one important reason behind its lagging position in eradicating poverty. Factors such as (long distances from markets, geographical fragmentation, tropical climates and soils, small markets, demographic pressure, natural resource curse, aid, external economic shocks vulnerability, weak institutional capacity, low financial sector and information technology, risks and uncertainty of policies and political instability) are main dangers in achieving growth. These factors through different channels, can address regionalism transparency, innovation, sound policies and effective leadership. Regional integration offers enormous opportunities to boost economic growth.

Regional integration by enlarging the size of the market stimulates the efficient allocation of resources, increases human capital and mobility

of labour, develops agricultural research and development related activities, diversifies production and improves manufacturing sector, increases domestic saving and investment, improves infrastructure and reduce the need for foreign debt. Moreover, it creates competitiveness and accelerate industrialisation, it offers better employment opportunities which reduce poverty in the region. African economies are not strongly advanced in global value chains and this remains a crucial asset in the equation. Efficient agricultural value chains enable to create comparative advantage and foster economic partnerships [1, 5, 6].

Food security is hardly affected by agricultural trade. When there is an increase in the income-earning capacities of the poor, this enhance access to food. Rising intra-regional agricultural trade enable the promotion of food security and augment domestic food supplies which improve consumption needs and diversity at both household and national levels. Macroeconomic policies play significant roles in influencing food security directly or indirectly by affecting poverty, food production, prices, foreign exchange, employment, and wages. Integration is a better tool to address food security challenge because of the opportunities targeting trade and market integration, investment in agricultural resources, investment in agricultural and trade infrastructure, sophistication in improved agriculture technologies, reduction of domestic and foreign policy distortions, and economies of scale [11, 14, 15]. It is well-recognised that integration greatly affects agricultural sector performance by stabilizing food prices, strengthening regional market and reducing dependence on International market.

It improve exports and decrease imports which in turn influence the countries income distribution, rural development, employment creation and competitiveness of the economy. It ensures the development of technologies against bad harvests or natural disasters. Consequently, all these channels target malnutrition, hunger, and famine; they seek to create an enabling environment that increase consumption and improve population nutritional well-being which directly addresses poverty reduction.

The impact of regional integration on food security goes beyond food and agriculture dimension alone. It includes non-agricultural economy that has various implications on countries' trade policy. Global value chains being in infant stage in most African countries, this sector presents many potentials oriented to regional trade value chains promotion on food security. But this will only be possible if political stability is in the equation and well safeguarded.

4. The impact of regional integration and international trade on food security

Food security is linked to regional integration's capability to rise global supply of the production (through a mixture of external and internal production) which stabilize variations in food prices. Opening up the economy lessens the unpredictability of staple foods supply by helping the outside to absorb the excess production and reduce the effects of shocks. Market prices affect food accessibility and are affected by the country's purchasing power. Per capita dietary energy supply is adopted to measure the food availability which approximates food security.

For international trade to motivate countries, interactions must be done among countries of

same calibre. Also, opening to international trade is not a necessary and sufficient condition to increase economic growth, other factors such as infrastructure, investment, comparative advantages, industrial development, protectionist policies, and technology progress need to be effective not forgetting the political stability. Many of these factors are integral components of value chains, and in many African countries, those factors are barely existing [11, 13]. In the African Economic regions, intra-trade is low and hardly affects the concerned countries.

In 2015, intra-community trade within West Africa was only 9% [15]. It is clear that if trade agreements are put in place, the impact will be different for producers and households. These crucial stakeholders will fill the impacts in terms of income, investment and consumption. Trade between many South Sahara African Countries and the rest of the world is characterized by export of primary products mainly agricultural goods and services, raw materials and imports of foods and foodstuffs coming from Asian countries. Expansion and diversification of agricultural products along with their value chains generate opportunities for people in the region and raise rural incomes which allow rural and urban households to access adequate and nutritious food. Consequently, a joint effect of integration and value chains boosts food security. Value chains need to be implemented across countries and sectors, and the countries' development program must highly target this goal. The incidence of political instability negatively affects food security. Political instability creates an unfavourable condition on food security through the decrease of investment and its impact on food supply from domestic production.

Growth in food production is associated with an increase in national food security. An enabling environment needs to be created by African countries to encourage producers by increasing domestic consumption, improving the areas of farm household, making them able to cope with risk, uncertainty and sources of technical change, and raise industrial development to make food cheaper. Also, some measures must be taken by governments to improve market efficiency such as communications, transportation, storage facilities, and legal codes to enforce contracts, credit availability to finance short-run stocks and processing operations, a market information system to keep all market participants from farmers to consumers fairly and accurately informed about market trends.

The amount of foreign reserves contributes to food security. Foreign reserves enhance the ability of food importation of countries and are a channel to buy the capital equipment to accelerate production and achieve self-sufficiency. Farm land is a great determinant as well; the more households have access to land, the more food production and availability increase and returns for many stakeholders working in different value chain stages.

5. Integrating farmers into agricultural value chains using investment: Tanzania's case

The Tanzanian case is used in this paper to portray how the efficient increase of investments in different stages of the agricultural value chains has tremendously improved the country's regional trade and reinforced the nation's stability.

Tanzania has attracted in recent years, many Foreign Direct Investments. The country continues to build its political stability and

economic development. It has an annual growth rate of 7%, ranking it the fastest growing country in East Africa [25]. In previous years, Tanzanian farmers similar to their continental peers have faced numerous drawbacks hindering their exploitation of the agricultural advantage offered by the country's favourable landscape, geographical location, and access to a major port city, Dar es Salaam. The African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) [25, 26] set the African agriculture backbone from which the government of Tanzania extracted its 6% target, but the agricultural sector hardly met this target due to poor productivity. To improve the situation, the Tanzanian government adopted and implemented various policies to enhance investment and kindle growth in the country's agricultural sector, with the aim of ensuring increase in the socio-economic indicators of smallholder farmers.

The country used investment as a tool to boost farmers' integration into larger and different value chains. Infrastructures (roads, railways, irrigation, and power) represented one fundamental structural challenges. Infrastructures facilitate access to larger markets, improve the quality of produce, and enable moving up the value chain into agro-processing activities. Tanzania has focused at implementing an investor-friendly environment which is development-focused with farmers holding the first position. As a result, the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), has applied important measures to attract investors' interest in the country's agricultural sector. These measures include among other things: tax-friendly provisions for foreign and local investors for a minimum investment of \$500,000 in capital for foreign investors and \$100,000 in capital for local investors.

Tax-free periods for the first five years of business operations which allow businesses to grow during their inception period, with the long-term goal of generating profits and thereafter expanding their operations.

The TIC has created precautions to ensure farmers mostly benefit from investment gains in the agricultural sector. These measures include mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) conditions for both local and foreign investors that have been incorporated into investment agreements on a sector-by-sector basis. As part of these CSR provisions in the agricultural sector, investors are obligatory to contribute towards the land tenure security of smallholder farmers, develop local community infrastructure through their projects, and encourage joint ventures between themselves and local communities. Through its Business Linkages Programme, Tanzania provides training on quality issues to more than 200 small and medium enterprises and encourages links between smallholder cooperatives and international companies. In 2011, the government partnered with AirTel to enable the transmission of market-related information to farmers. For farmers located in rural areas with little access to larger markets, receiving market prices through their mobile phones is an effective way to ensure they are well informed, minimise their reliance on middlemen, and ultimately empower them to be active participants when selling their produce. Problems surrounding “doing business” conditions, land ownership, and existing tax regimes continue to exist, thereby limiting the prospects for greater investment and private sector participation. These measures have tremendously improved the agricultural value chains of the country.

The socio-economic development of Tanzanian

farmers is the World Bank's Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) initiative, which involves a wide range of partners and is characterised by its Public-Private Partnership “mega-PPP” status. In this project, land allocations of between 3,000 and 50,000 hectares have been reserved for leasing to investors, with the land surrounding these parcels reserved for smallholder farmers. Investors will come along with services, infrastructure, and inputs as they undertake agro-processing initiatives and agricultural production under the project. As a result, smallholder farmers are expected to benefit from better access to larger markets, and improved inputs, extension services, and irrigation. These will help them to improve farming methods and boost their outputs [26].

In general, the tax regime appears to be largely problematic for many actors throughout agricultural value chains and requires a renovation. PPPs can be utilised for the long-term sustenance of projects and the incorporation of farmers into larger value chains through training, up skilling, and agro-processing initiatives. Implementing non-protectionist policies that harness the producing potential of smallholder farmers through inclusion in domestic value chains can also help simplify entry in regional markets. Such measures could include enhancing farmers' competitiveness, improving labour productivity, and upgrading technical knowledge. Promoting linkages to regional markets can help smallholder producers to comprehend the importance of producing high-quality produce for export that would derive higher profits for them. Many of these reforms have been possible given the political stability existing in Tanzania and regional integration in East Africa.

6. Common Challenges Facing Farmers in Conflict Zones

There are a number of challenges commonly faced by farmers living in countries which experience conflicts. One of the biggest challenges faced by the crop, livestock and agricultural services value chains is reduction in human mobility. The agriculture sector requires farm labourers to travel to fields. Often, during instability, they are exposed to attacks by insurgents (militants, nationalists or jihadists). Markets where agricultural products are bought and sold are also targets due to the amount of money and appropriable products exchanging hands. Livestock markets such as cattle or camel markets are usually under threat of attack given that the unit cost per animal is very high. Despite these drawbacks, some farmers remain capable of maintaining their agricultural investments and demonstrate resilience to the conflict situations. By so doing, they continue feeding nations against all odds. Though they can do, the different value chains along with their distribution channels are really impacted.

Conclusion

Considering the international trade and the balance of payments, it is sustained that stable political environment influences export performance via competitiveness, and play a crucial role in export and overall growth, this is only possible if efficient functional value chains are existing on ground. In recent years, political violence has emerged as the most common

method of governmental change. In Sub-Saharan Africa, political instability is a significant constraint to the improvement of the human condition in the region. Around 37% of Africans live in extreme poverty. By 2030, around 548 million of Africans are likely to live in extreme poverty, and youth 15-29 years are the most affected by these figures. Poverty and youth make Africa turbulent. But the continent is growing and remain dynamic. Inequalities are rampant as growth does not translate into poverty reduction. To reduce this and create more jobs, Africa needs average growth rates of 7%. Instability disrupt development but presents at the same time opportunities. What is needed is efficient planning. Governments have to put in place highly functional distributions channels with enabling business environments to guarantee stability. Youth, mostly carrying instability activities can be employed in numerous careers opportunities, offered by values chains (transport, storage, processing, labelling, packaging, inventory management, services, communication, marketing, etc.). Violence will remain a characteristic of a number of countries for many years to come and Africa should plan accordingly. In the long term, only rapid inclusive economic growth combined with good governance can reduce or eliminate the structural drivers of violence. Much more international and regional cooperation are required as part a factor of the process, including substantive and scaled up support for peacekeeping.

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