

# Western & Central AFRICA QUARTERLY UPDATES

July 2023

People  
First



This newsletter covers:

Editorial by Vice-President Ousmane Diagana / Highlights / Events / AFW in the media / Resources you may find useful / Jobs and careers

## EDITORIAL

### Evolving Our Mission for People and Planet

Change is an essential component of progress. It's what fuels innovation and ensures that any undertaking is responsive to the realities of the world around it.

Climate change, fragility, debt, pandemics, and other threats to our natural world require a significant shift in the global response. As a central contributor to these efforts, the World Bank Group has embarked on a process to evolve its vision and mission, operating model, and financial capacity to better respond to these global challenges as detailed in its [Evolution Roadmap](#).

The World Bank Group is now engaging in consultations with various stakeholders across the development spectrum in an inclusive and collaborative process.

The Western and Central Africa region was honored to host the first three stakeholder consultations on the African continent. Last week, I was joined by our Managing Director Anna Bjerde in Abidjan for two consultations and discussions, one with parliamentarians and another multi-stakeholder consultation with civil society organizations, foundations, think tanks, and other development partners. Then, in Accra, we had the chance to dialogue with private sector leaders. Over 200 participants joined us in person and online from 20 countries across the region to take part in these discussions and help shape the future direction of the World Bank Group.

The conversations were rich and constructive, with participants sharing their growing concerns over climate change, fragility, women's economic empowerment, and thoughts on how the World Bank Group can be even more responsive to the lived realities of our most marginalized and vulnerable communities. There was a clear sense that we are aligned in our commitment to working together to prioritize the needs of both people and planet and ensure

the voices of our client countries are heard and considered.

### **Make Your Voice Heard!**

Consultations are still ongoing, and we want to hear as many perspectives as possible! I call on all of you to submit your input online via the dedicated [consultation website](#). The **deadline for input is July 31, 2023**. Full recordings of the consultations in Abidjan and Accra will be posted there when available.

Wishing you a safe and healthy summer.

**Ousmane Diagana**

## HIGHLIGHTS



### **In Ghana, Sustainable Cocoa-Forest Practices Yield Carbon Credits**

Three years ago, Adwoa Akyaa's 15-acre cocoa farm was "nothing to write home about," she says, and this may once have been true. While Ghana is the second-largest global producer of cocoa, average yields from individual farms remain low. These days, however, Akyaa is among 140,000 farmers in Ghana adopting innovative practices, revitalizing their lands and enhancing their cocoa stocks. [To read more](#)

### **Senegal: Beach restoration and coastal protection to revive tourism and fishing in Saly**

The sun warms the golden sands as waves from the Atlantic Ocean roll in. Children shriek with joy as they swim or play games on the beach. And businesses thrive along and the beachfront from the hundreds of tourists who visit every day. But it wasn't always like this for the coastal town of Saly in Senegal. [To read more](#)



## Africa's Solutions Engine – How Centers of Excellence Point to the Continent's Future

There is something upliftingly glorious about homegrown solutions. They fill us with a sense of pride, a can-do spirit that makes us feel invincible. They give us hope for the future, knowing that if we could find a solution to one problem, with a bit of elbow greasing, we could solve the next ten. [To read more](#)

## Cameroon: Giving the Most Vulnerable their Dignity Back

Maimouna is happy that her life took a positive turn. "The SSNP has given me my dignity back. I was selected to be a beneficiary of the project in 2015. With the money I have received I was able to send my children back to school and afterwards set up a small fabric and food business of selling." [To read more](#)

## Chef Madzou Moukassa: A Taste for Success

It was in January 2022 that Madzou Moukassa's name went down in the annals of Congolese and African gastronomy. That same year, the 28-year-old Madzou was awarded the top prize in the African culinary championships held in Ouidah, Benin and went on to receive an honor from the Congolese head of State. [To read more](#)

### EVENTS

The banner features a dark blue background with a stylized profile of a human head in shades of blue and orange on the right side. On the left, there are several overlapping circles in green, orange, and yellow. The text is centered and includes the ICHA logo, the event title, the location and dates, and a hashtag.

 **International Corruption Hunters Alliance**

**Collective Action  
in an *Era of Crises***

**ICHA2023**

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire | June 14–16, 2023

**#ICHA2023**

## Events you may have missed

- June 14-16, 2023 - **International Corruption Hunters Alliance Forum** | [Watch the replay](#)
- May 30-31, 2023 - **High-Level Roundtable on Fertilizers** | [Watch the replay](#)
- May 25-26, 2023 - **World Bank Group Youth Summit** | [Watch the replay](#)

- April 15, 2023 - The State of the Africa Region (SoAR) | [Watch the replay](#)

## AFW IN THE NEWS



### **Grow the future: Feed the soil to feed the people of West Africa**

**Jeune Afrique** - *OpEd by His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Republic of Togo and Ousmane Diagana, World Bank Vice President for Western and Central Africa*

In the current context of global crisis, the future of our farming and food security are closely linked. Soil health and fertilizers, while at the heart of the problem, are also part of the solution. [To read more](#)

### **Corruption is a Global Problem for Development. To Fight it, We All Have a Role to Play**

**La Tribune Afrique** - *OpEd by Ousmane Diagana, World Bank Vice President for Western and Central Africa and Mouhamadou Diagne, World Bank Vice President for Integrity*

Corruption harms the poor and vulnerable the most, increasing costs and reducing access to basic services, such as health, education, social programs, and even justice. It exacerbates inequality and reduces private sector investment to the detriment of markets, job opportunities, and economies. [To read more](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



### **Women of Action: Stories of Change - Baboia Tachie-Menson**

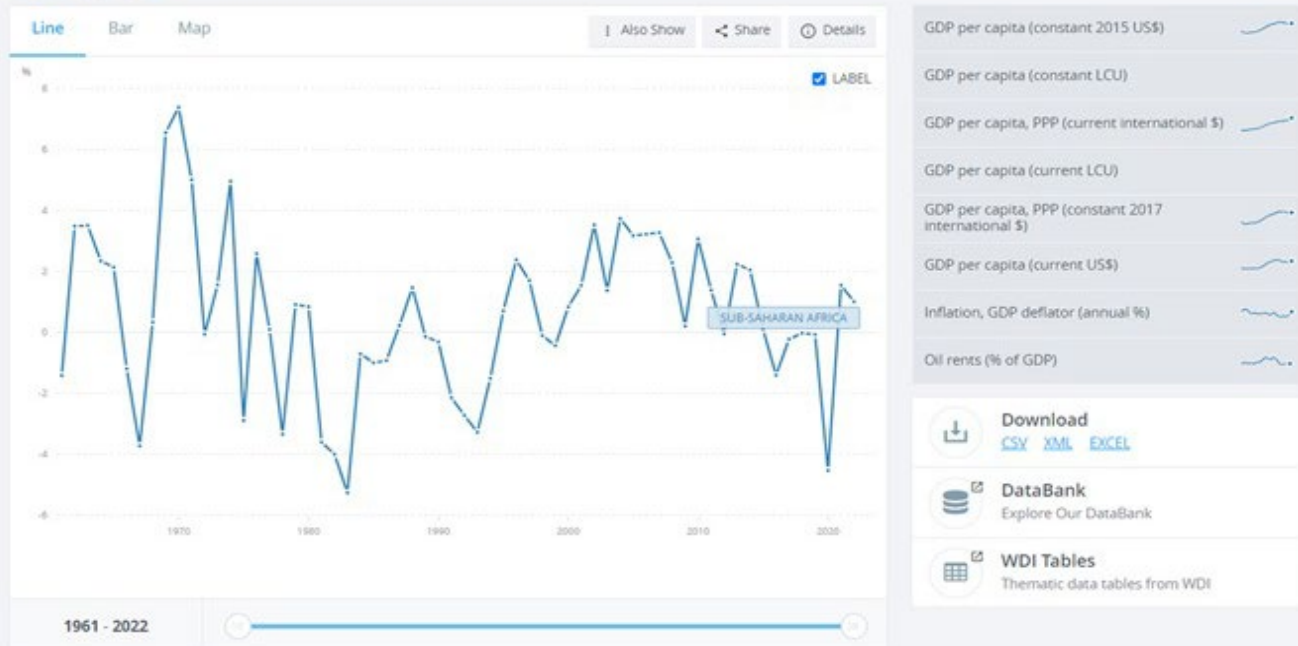
Through her digital fashion firm, BALM LABS, Baboia Tachie-Menson is pushing the envelope in nouveau-afro fashion, championing efficient garment production for sustainability. [Meet another Woman of Action!](#)

# SMART DATA

## GDP per capita growth (annual %) - Sub-Saharan Africa

World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files.

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## 1,6% - GDP per capita growth in 2021 - Sub-Saharan Africa

[GDP per capita growth in 2021 - Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

The World Bank recognizes that transparency and accountability are essential to the development process and central to achieving the Bank's mission to alleviate poverty. Without data, you are just another person with an opinion. As a knowledge institution, the World Bank's first step is to share its knowledge freely and openly. Find [more data and statistics](#) from The World Bank.

## RESOURCES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL



### Global Economic Prospects: Sub-Saharan Africa

The June 2023 edition of the Global Economic Prospects states that global growth is projected to slow significantly in the second half of this year, with weakness continuing in 2024. More specifically, growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to slow to 3.2 percent in 2023, as external headwinds, persistent inflation, higher borrowing costs, and increased insecurity weigh on activity. [To read more and download the publication.](#)

### Economic updates recently published

- [Benin Economic Update: the potential for developing transportation sector and economic corridors.](#)
- [Burkina Faso Economic Update: Building Financial Resilience to Climate Risks](#)
- [Central African Republic Economic Update: Focus on Fuel Subsidies](#)
- [Chad Economic Update : Resilience in Uncertain Times - Harnessing Agriculture and Livestock Value Chains](#)
- [Economic Update for the Republic of Congo: Reforming Fossil Fuel Subsidies](#)
- [Equatorial Guinea Economic Update - Reforming Fossil Fuel Subsidies](#)
- [Gabon Economic Update: Reforming Fossil Fuel Subsidies](#)
- [Liberia - Economic Update : Getting Rice Right for Productivity and Poverty Alleviation](#)
- [Niger Economic Update: Strengthening Financial Resilience of Pastoralists to Drought](#)
- [Nigeria Development Update: Seizing the Opportunity](#)
- [Senegal Economic Update: Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups for national development](#)



## JOBS AND CAREERS



### Job opportunities at the World Group

The World Bank Group's recruitment policy is to hire staff of the highest caliber, on as wide a geographical basis as possible, with preference to nationals of WBG member countries or countries of operations.

[Current job positions](#) | [Programs and Internships](#)

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### The World Bank in Western and Central Africa

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