The anatomy of crises in Sub- Saharan Africa economic underdevelopment: A literature review

Samuel Oluwapelumi Olofinlade¹ Cecelia Oluwakemi Aina Ogunwole² James Ishola Aransiola³ Favour Ayobami Olanrewaju⁴ Isaac Salami Adedoyin ⁵ Daniel Olawole Olofinlade⁶

Abstract

Political upheaval, economic crisis, corruption and food insecurity are the bane for economic underdevelopment in sub–Saharan Africa; these have caused many lives to face some difficulties and to witness unpalatable experiences. This paper looked into this issue and brought out some factors that likely aggravate the difficulties, crises and

Reception date: October 4, 2023. Approval date: November 15, 2023. DOI: https://doi.org/10.32870/eera.vi52.1125

¹ Thomas Adewumi University, Department of Accounting and Finance, Oko, Kwara State, Nigeria. E-mail: <u>samuel.olofinlade@tau.edu.ng</u>. ORCID: <u>https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3418-6686</u>.

² University of Ibadan, School of Business, Oyo State, Nigeria. E-mail: <u>ogunwoleaina@gmail.com</u>. OR-CID: <u>https://orcid.org/0009-0001-0387-1114</u>.

³ Thomas Adewumi University, Department of Business Administration, Oko, Kwara State, Nigeria. E-mail: james.Ishola@tau.edu.ng. ORCID: <u>https://orcid.org/0009-0009-5607-4037</u>.

⁴ Thomas Adewumi University, Department of Accounting and Finance, Oko, Kwara State, Nigeria. E-mail: <u>afa.favour.olanrewaju@tau.edu.ng</u>. ORCID: <u>https://orcid.org/0009-0004-9393-6584</u>.

⁵ Kwara State Polytechnic, Department of Business Administration, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. E-mail: adedoyinisaac3@gmail.com. ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0008-4445-8124.

⁶ OPay Nigeria Limited, Abuja, Nigeria. E-mail: <u>danielleow08@gmail.com</u>. ORCID: <u>https://orcid.org/0009-0001-2747-4471</u>.

insecurity in sub–Saharan Africa especially. A few internal factors that contribute to food insecurity include poor leadership, conflict and subconscious of political administration. It is believed that outside factors contributed in a subtle, occasionally overt manner to the solution of the issue.

This paper explained how political crisis, economic crisis, insecurity and food insecurity as a bane of economic underdevelopment of the sub-Saharan African country. The political crisis ranges from an underdeveloped political system, frequent changes in government, political instability, frequent change in government policies, abandonment of economic programs, and banditry and pirate activities at sea. Economic crises such as inflation, debt servicing, bogus foreign exchange regime, infrastructural decay, wrong economic policies are part of the bane of underdevelopment in sub-Saharan Africa. While on Food insecurity, drought, pest and diseases, pandemic outbreak (COVID-19), Ukraine crisis/war, storage inadequacy, and seasonality of produce was part of the predicament that hinders development in sub-Saharan Africa. Also, suggestions were made to improve both the political and economic issues regarding food security and the development of sub-Saharan Africa.

Keywords: Political, Economic, Corruption, Food insecurity, Underdevelopment, Sub-Sahara.

JEL Codes: O55, B3.

La anatomía de las crisis en el subdesarrollo económico del África subsahariana: una revisión de la literatura

Resumen

La agitación política, la crisis económica, la corrupción y la inseguridad alimentaria son la pesadilla del subdesarrollo económico en el África subsahariana; Esto ha hecho que muchas vidas enfrenten algunas dificultades y sean testigos de experiencias desagradables. Este documento analizó esta cuestión y destacó algunos factores que probablemente agravan las dificultades, las crisis y la inseguridad, especialmente en el África subsahariana. Algunos factores internos que contribuyen a la inseguridad alimentaria incluyen un liderazgo deficiente, los conflictos y el subconsciente de la administración política. Se cree que factores externos contribuyeron de manera sutil y en ocasiones abierta a la solución del problema.

En este trabajo se explica cómo la crisis política, la crisis económica, la inseguridad y la inseguridad alimentaria son una plaga del subdesarrollo económico del país del África subsahariana. La crisis política abarca desde un sistema político subdesarrollado, cambios frecuentes de gobierno, inestabilidad política, cambios frecuentes en las políticas gubernamentales, abandono de programas económicos y actividades de bandidaje y piratería en el mar. Crisis económicas como la inflación, el servicio de la deuda, el falso régimen cambiario, el deterioro de la infraestructura y las políticas económicas equivocadas son parte de la pesadilla del subdesarrollo en el África subsahariana. Mientras que la inseguridad alimentaria, la sequía, las plagas y enfermedades, el brote pandémico (COVID-19), la crisis/guerra de Ucrania, el almacenamiento inadecuado y la estacionalidad de los productos fueron parte de la situación que obstaculiza el desarrollo en el África subsahariana. Además, se hicieron sugerencias para mejorar tanto las cuestiones políticas como económicas relativas a la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo del África subsahariana.

Palabras clave: Política, Economía, Corrupción, Inseguridad alimentaria, Subdesarrollo, Subsahariano.

Códigos JEL: O55, B3.

1. Introduction

Economic development and progress do not occur in an institutional or political vacuum. Economic decisions are governed by institutions, social norms, and rules that are formulated through political processes. Over the past decades Africa especially Sub-Saharan has been faced with numerous developmental issues. Human and food insecurity in sub–Saharan Africa has been a global problem; though they have the highest population, however, it is not overstated to say that Sub-Saharan Africa, where a number of life-threatening developments remain and which state has made minimal progress against, is where vulnerability is most intense (Kumo, 2009). Human insecurity has attained high levels in Africa, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa as many people live below the poverty line and this poverty level continues to increase. Food and nutritional inadequacies have reached a monumental proportion with malnourishment causes underweight in infants in sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite the fact that the majority of African nations are not on pace to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (sDGs 01), this is because Africa has not achieved consistent progress over the past ten years in laying the groundwork for greater development and the elimination of poverty. Though the as the impacts of the global financial meltdown are finally becoming apparent, they did not take long to manifest in sub-Saharan Africa. It is, in other words, a full-fledged development and growth catastrophe that is destroying businesses, mining, employment, incomes, and livelihoods. If the financial crises continue to grow unabated there is a tendency at which there won't be any per-capita growth in such countries.

The expectation for growth has drastically declined due to the huge debt burden on the continent from the developed countries. A number of nations are dealing with expanding current accounts and deficit spending, and this has led to a bartering of economic and financial balances. The crisis is affecting commerce, which has been sub-Saharan Africa's major driver of latest economic progress. Along with exports, capital inflows are also falling, including earnings from tourism and remittances sent home by foreign workers. Some nations are only able to fund a few weeks' worth of imports due to the critically low levels of foreign reserves. The ability to import even essential goods like food, medical supplies, and agricultural inputs is gravely jeopardized by this. The most vulnerable are the impoverished. The lack of liquidity on global markets has an impact on the private sector and has a negative impact on trade and investments. International banks have not even confirmed pledged lines of credit, let alone issued any. Several projects have already been terminated, while others have been postponed.

2. Status

The stigma of do-or-die election issues in the sub -Saharan Africa has led to many of the country's leaders staying in power for more than a decade causing uneasiness in the society which led to hunger, deprivation and diseases. The worst out of this chaos is the gender-based violence between men and women and the government is not taking proactive measures to tackle the injustice caused as the women where little children are subjected to prostitution; destitute in society. The level of poverty in sub-Saharan African countries despite the awareness of natural resources available in those countries that can be exploited for economic gains and poverty alleviation through job creation, the exploration and exploitation of these abundant natural resources to the development of economic activities towards employment opportunities for poverty alleviation in the sub-Saharan African were not focused on or harnessed efficiently.

2.1 The Rationale

It is at this juncture one tends to ask does political crisis facilitate sub -Saharan country under- development. Political instability, particularly when it is violent in nature, reduces the economy's capacity for both transitional and productive activity. Designing the primary political institutions that govern the state is a significant tradition in political ideology. Election laws, the separation of powers, and mechanisms for oversight at various state branches are all included in this institutional structure. The constitution is the primary legal document that outlines fundamental human rights, obligations, and liabilities as well as the operation of the political structure. Parliamentary and presidential systems, as well as semi-presidential regimes that include aspects of both, are the two main forms of democracies that exist in sub-Saharan Africa. There were lots of political crises in this region with the inner ulterior motive of staying in office for life thereby subjecting electoral principles and practices to chaos through intimidation, vote buying; thuggery and unnecessary legal action against the opposition. The stigma of do-or-die election issues in sub-Sahara Africa has led to many deaths through hate speeches, running down opponents, thereby not focusing on their vision while in government or what they intend to do when in government towards enhancing national development. This has been part of the major problems of political underdevelopment in sub-Saharan Africa. However, leadership corruption and embezzlements of public funds are part of the causes of political crises in sub-Saharan Africa which led to a lack of trust in our leaders and an economic cash trap for infrastructural development.

2.1.1 How does economic crisis plunge sub-Saharan countries into underdevelopment; The present economic issues in Sub-Saharan Africa are the result of a complicated interplay between fundamental resource limitations, local mishandling, and severe foreign disruptions, which varies from nation to country. Country to country differences in climate and endowments of natural resources are significant. While some nations are severely confined by a weak and failing climate and are reliant on the nature for their short-term wealth, others have rich terrain, large natural resources, and/or enormous hydropower generation capabilities. However, they are all still in very early stages of economic growth. Sub-Saharan Africa trailed behind the majority of the emerging world in terms of per-capital income, the construction of social infrastructure, the accessibility of education and infrastructure health care, and the rate of economic expansion even before the well reported tragedies of the 1980s. Due to their poverty, 29 sub-Saharan African nations are considered "IDA-eligible," making them eligible for the World Bank Group's lenient loan terms. The United Nations classifies 22 as being among the "least stable." Many of the nations in this region are likewise rather tiny, and their populations are also growing at incredibly fast rates (UN 2020).

In the 1970s and 1980s, sub-Saharan Africa experienced extra significant external disruptions as a result of the world's economic turmoil. With some international support, the African nations were able to survive the COVID-19 epidemic that brought the whole globe to a halt as well as the rise in oil prices and subsequent downturn in the economy in 2020.

The largest impact of rising prices is the erosion of real income since it diminishes the buying power of various currencies in this volatile inflationary environment with unevenly growing prices. Additionally, inflation over time affects the purchasing power of both parties who pay and receive fixed interest rates. Employees demand on more pay to make up for both the higher costs of today and the increased prices they anticipate in the long term. As a result, costs start to increase at a rate that is at least as rapid as final prices. Real operating margins have fallen below where inflation started (Ikenna, 2009).

2.1.2 How does food insecurity affect the un-development of sub-Saharan Africa; The problem of food insecurity has become a global issue that cannot be solved in isolation by one country, but requires a global strategy. The affordability and accessibility of food are gauged by the concept of "food security." Moreover, one of the major problems of food insecurity in this region lies in drought; drought is a prolonged period of time, generally a season or more, during which there is little or no rainfall or moisture, which causes a water deficit for particular uses or ecosystem sectors. Food security is defined as having consistent and adequate availability to wholesome, secure, and high-quality food to fulfil the requirements of the entire family in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security of 1996 (WFP, 2020b). When all individuals, at all times, lack access to enough, safe, and nutritious food that satisfies their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle, there is a problem with food insecurity. The incapacity of livelihoods to ensure household access to enough food

is another way to define food insecurity. Anthropogenic global warming is an adjustment in response to natural and human systems, although climate change adaptability varies in this region, leading to drought issues in certain circumstances. Due to climatic changes, farmers must devise and put into action adaptation techniques in order to modify, recover from, and mitigate the effects of such calamities. However, the lack of drought is hurting farmers with significant crop and income loss mostly the livestock farmers, and the rapidly intensifying drought in the Central African Republic, Kenya and Somalia has gripped the central savannah and plains depleting topsoil moisture and significantly stressing the range of land, pastures and turning the Safari grassland to desert due to severe drought as water sources dry out and grace burns up. Hence access to water by herdsmen for livestock has been a key issue for farmers and ranchers each year in the sub -Saharan Africa.

In light of this, this paper evaluated and attempted to fill the knowledge vacuum by analyzing previously published data on the impact of drought on food insecurity, vulnerability, and coping mechanisms in rural and semi-urban populations in sub-Saharan Africa communities.

2.1.3 Not that alone, Russia and Ukraine crisis is not left out on food insecurity. Food insecurity has gotten worse in many Sub-Saharan and some African countries as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In order to maintain their economies, many nations in East, West, Middle, and Southern Africa depend on imports of wheat, fer-tilizer, or vegetable oils from Russia and Ukraine (FAO, 2011). However, the crisis has disrupted global commodity markets and trade flows to Africa in this regard, driving up already high food prices in the region to spiral inflation. Higher global pricing for important commodities has an indirect effect on nations that buy less from the two countries (Torero, 2020). Governments and the international community need to take urgent action because the majority of African and sub-Saharan African countries are indeed experiencing a food crisis with price inflation that are aggravating the harsh realities of millions of people who have been pushed into extreme poverty by the covid-19 pandemic (UN, 2020a).

As a result of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, hyperinflation sets in and makes it harder by the cost of fuel that is rising and still rising thereby making it meaningfully more expensive to truck for agricultural and industrial purposes. Also, the price of fertilizer crops and feeds for animals remains expensive the implication of these to consumers is that the sub-Saharan people spend more on certain food products. The crisis between Russia and Ukraine has severe climate and weather events, like dry spells, mud slides, and sporadic flash floods—the worst of which happened during the COVID-19 pandemic clampdown and hindered efforts to produce food and worldwide supply chains—have forced the countries in East, West, Middle, and Southern Africa to contend with skyrocketing food prices (FAO and WFP, 2020b). Global food costs have risen sharply since the Russian and Ukrainian crises, and the cost of goods like petroleum and electricity, which fuel the economy, has also gone up. Although cereals accounts for approximately a third of the world's wheat exports, Russia and Ukraine are among the top five wheat exporters, and sub-Saharan Africa and Africa are among the world's top importers of wheat, with a fourth of their imports coming from Russia and Ukraine. More than 40% of the wheat and grains imported by the majority of African nations, including Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda, and Sudan, came from Russia and Ukraine. While the World Food Programme of the United Nations (UNWFP) purchases half of the wheat it distributes globally from Ukraine. Because of the turmoil, availability is limited and costs are going up, notably for petroleum, which raises the expense of moving food within an area and to the other. The catastrophe, which has had a significant negative impact on people's subsistence in several African nations, has increased food prices. like Cameroon, Kenya, Somalia and Burundi especially where adequate social protection is lacking. In these situations of severe food insecurity, people have a higher likelihood of running out of food and experiencing hunger, sometimes going days without eating. In sub-Saharan Africa, where people did not have access to social assistance and had food insecurity prior to the crisis, the cost of living skyrocketed along with prices. of bread, rice, and yams rising even faster as the crisis between Russian and Ukraine led to financial and technological aggression among the developed countries who are supporting the NGOS and UNO toward poverty alleviation and food security in sub -Saharan Africa which was noted for food impoverishment and malnutrition.

2.1.4 Furthermore, the Pandemic Outbreak (COVID-19) that has had a significant influence on food security and nutrition since it began to spread quickly and widely over the planet in late 2019 and the sub-Saharan African communities were not exclusive. According to world Health organization, this unfolding Pandemic 19 and conflict has compromised people's access to food and impacted food supply chain networks. In the aftermath of shut downs brought on by the worldwide health crisis, we have observed not only a substantial change to food supply systems but also a significant global economic downturn (Heady and Shenggen, 2008). Because of the crisis, some items are now more expensive and out of reach for many people, compromising their right to food and delaying attempts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: "Zero Hunger." There is a lot of ambiguity in the scenario, which is fluid and dynamic. These processes pose major hazards for nutrition and food insecurity. According to the most recent State of Food Security and Nutrition report (FAO, 2020), some individuals were already experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity before the pandemic broke out, and these proportions have been steadily increasing over time. The COVID-19 epidemic is exerting pressure to undermine sDG 2 attempts. The lockdowns designed to control the sickness are causing complicated dynamics that are making it difficult for the food systems to be significantly disrupted, leading to a sharp surge in hunger. Because the virus could not be prevented and shutdown measures are still in place in the majority of countries worldwide as of the time of writing this, food output was also impacted.

However, the disease and the actions taken to stop its transmission have had a significant impact on food systems, nutrition, and food security. In addition, overweight and malnourishment make people more susceptible to COVID-19 mortality,

which is why numerous nations have implemented rigorous confinement and physical separation rules. Due to the severe downturn in economic activity and the disruption of supply networks induced by these actions, challenges and opportunities with compounding consequences on food availability, cost, and the nutritional value of unhealthy food were unleashed. The demand for several perishable commodities, especially dairy products, fell precipitously as a result of the shutdown of restaurants and other food service establishment (Terazono and Munshi, 2020).

2.1.5. Not that alone, farmers without adequate storage facilities, including cold storage, found themselves with food that they could not sell nor eat all in certain instances labor-intensive food production has also been particularly impacted by COVID-19 among food system workers, including production systems that rely on migrant farm workers from Latin and Asian countries. These workers face travel restrictions and frequently work in unsanitary conditions on farms and in food production facilities, some of which had to close (Haley *et al.*, 2020).

Other factors include:

2.1.6. Pest and diseases also affect the sub-Saharan African countries due to a lack of adequate monitoring and insufficient materials needed to maintain these foods and control the pests and diseases caught up with their products and bring about low production of food which enable the citizen to access the food and that cause food insufficiency in the sub-Saharan region.

Piracy and banditry also played a key part in the instability of the region politically, economically and their social life, the inability of the government to provide adequate security to protect citizens from violent attacks unleashed on them by the bandits and domestic insurgents cum other dangerous armed groups who kidnap, rape and kill people across the country is a severe predicament to the economic development in the sub-Saharan Africa despite the huge efforts of United Nations and supportive neighboring countries (Olaoye *et al.*, 2023).

2.1.7. Moreover, the terrorist group like AI- the Shabab terrorist cell, Islamic State of West Africa, (Iswa), Boko Haram, etc. who kidnap men and women bomb houses and hotels destroy government infrastructural facilities raping women, killing men, youths, children and taking over ancestral homeland, imposing their rulership creates hunger deprivation which led to diseases and malnutrition in the Somalia enclave. These set of terrorists get mortified by the sheer waste of precious lives, the wantonness, malevolence and viciousness of it all. Innocent law enforcement agents are killed in cold blood and the misguided brainwashed the younger generations into terrorist creates uneasiness with the government in power and the funds that are supposed to be spent on infrastructural development for social security are channeled to security procurement and security beef-up. Though the Somali Al-Shabab are noted for running down

opponents, greater passion for violence and creating chaos with the use of verbal abuses which are detrimental to the peaceful coexistence in a society. The effect of this in society is gender-based violence on women and men. The military, local vigilante groups and other security allies lacks the weapon needed to combats the terrorist, bandits and other dangerous criminals that are armed with sophisticated weapons, the terrorist have even been known to occasionally outrun and outgun the military groups and military outpost.

2.1.8. Furthermore, the bandit has many times turned into cattle rustlers by raiding different settlements/communities, killing cattle owners and making away with their cattle. The participants who are bandits have turned banditry killing and insurgency into business. The bandits/ terrorist group has built up, sustained and lived off a brutal legacy of dehumanization of lots of people across the country/region where they operate. The people of the such area have never known peace nor have they enjoyed the fruits of the riches of their respective land. The riches were and still are utilized for the enrichment of the respective terrorist and those who look like them. Their reigns of terror bring pain and suffering, death and dispossession and dehumanization of the people.

3. Conclusion and Suggestions

As the saying 'An illness known has a cure' but the curative methodology may be the obscured factor. Sub-Saharan Africa's lack of development won't disappear until African leaders do more to raise living standards through cooperation and political advancement. Having known the bane for the economic under-development in sub-Saharan Africa, then we have a way forward. The leaders should check into these sectors and find solutions to the problem by making use of all available necessary tools like modern technology, materials needed for the growth of the country (Ogungbure, 2011).

All African nations aspire to be on par with wealthy nations, and I provide some ideas for accelerating sub-Saharan Africa's growth. Priority one for their development plan should be the relationship between culture and development. They should embrace laws, plans, and technological innovations that are suitable for and harmonious with their traditions. Nevertheless, some economists have claimed that taking into account culture might help us better understand how economies evolve. Africans should, as part of their culture, support domestic production and lessen their preference for imported items, which is undermining the advances that their country should have earned. By supporting domestic production, Africans would also spend less money abroad. Therefore, it is crucial for sub-Saharan African leaders to concentrate on their culture in order to develop an economics standpoint, to liberalize the economy, and to achieve financial independence and economic expansion. They should also work with the youth to build a nation together while ensuring peaceful general elections. Therefore, it is crucial for sub-Saharan African countries to focus on their own cultures when working on their development. Since nations don't grow independently of the nationalism of their residents and their leaders, it was important to underline the necessity for sub-Saharan African individuals to get patriotic orientation. As was done in South Africa during the South African reconciliation, the nation's patriotic leaders in government should take immediate action to repair the social scars caused by injustice (Uneke 2010).

Secondly, In sub-Saharan African nations, placing a significant focus on corporate leadership and organizations might be the answer to the continent's growth and its lack of capable political leaders. When President Obama met the late President Mills of Ghana in 2009, he said that Africa needed strong institutions and good role models. This is in line with what President Obama said at the time. The ability to confront corruption in all its forms, including political corruption, which is a major problem in Africa, as well as corruption in the civil service, etc., can be aided by having a strong institution. In order to tackle the destructive issue, the proper legal and anti-corruption apparatus must be put in place, and prosecutions must be conducted impartially. The sub-Saharan nations require thinkers and doers who can organize summits to facilitate governance and for understanding and doing in accordance with their vision, inventiveness, and adaptability to change at crucial times.

Additionally, a program for exchanging technology with developed nations is another way to help Sub-Saharan Africa develop. This is because technology is essentially the application of scientific knowledge to real-world issues, whereas technology transfer refers to the procedures by which technological knowledge is transferred within or between organizations and nations, including through international technology exchange. The sub-Saharan African nations may obtain innovative and cutting-edge technologies through participating in technology exchanges, which is a significant method of doing so. The rapid technical and economic growth of East Asian newly industrialized nations may be largely attributed to their acquisition of foreign technologies and endogenous technological learning initiatives to acquire the competence to shift technologies. The technical exchange program will be extremely helpful to the sub-Saharan nations in combating drought with sophisticated irrigation technology that will turn the desert into a rainforest, much as Israel did in combating the threat of drought through modern agriculture and irrigation.

The sub-Saharan African nations' ability to go forward in terms of development depends on how well they place themselves inside the global capitalist system that is being sustained by globalization and its powerful forces. National governments must have the freedom to select suitable monetary, fiscal, trade, macroeconomic, and other economic and social policies without heavy-handed interference from the developed countries and the multilateral institutions these countries control if globalization is to have positive effects on Africa's development. In other words, sustainable and widespread economic progress in Africa requires a more democratic global economic and political climate. In a summary, development professionals, academics, politicians, and students of development studies continue to be concerned about the development gap between the developed (core) and undeveloped (periphery) countries. Numerous theories of development have been presented, including meta and micro-narratives, yet the gulf between industrialized and undeveloped nations is growing daily. The scourge of sub-Saharan African underdevelopment has been caused by a number of endogenous and external reasons, including colonialism and the race for the African continent, global capitalism, corruption, geography, and weak institutions.

The necessity for sub-Saharan African nations to assemble a team of the most brilliant economists—both men and women—and most them to the route of attaining double-digit economic development in the area while providing them with an environment that would enable them to meet their team's target objectives.

Governments and donor organizations should step up their efforts to provide economic, emergency, and social protection to ensure cheap food access in Africa. Otherwise, millions around the world might go hungry and the sub-Saharan African continent communities as well.

In accordance with international and African human rights legislation, everyone has the right to enough food. Governments must pass laws and launch initiatives to guarantee that everyone can afford healthy meals in order to uphold this right. Key tools for achieving the right to food might be social protection systems that uphold the principle of social security for all.

Additionally, the governments of certain sub-Saharan African nations did take action to lessen the effects of the economic and financial crisis. These include the establishment of specialized monitoring units, the provision of fiscal stimulus packages, the revision of budget expenditures, the targeting of aid at critical industries, the stepping up of banking sector and financial market regulation, the adoption of an expansionary monetary policy, and the use of foreign exchange controls to safeguard the exchange rate. The primary cause for worry is the slowdown in growth, which will disproportionately harm the sub-Saharan region's poor. The foundations of prosperity built through consistent policy modifications and enhancements to the investment climate must be preserved in order for the continent to achievements after the crisis.

Maintaining proper levels of investment, particularly in infrastructure, is essential to achieving this aim. However, the desire of sub-Saharan African countries to do so is severely constrained which was before resource limitations that are being made worse by the rising saving-investment imbalance in those countries and theft. According to our estimates, Sub-Saharan Africa would need a massive extra capital influx to address infrastructure needs and create a favorable investment climate only to maintain pre-crisis levels of sub-growth. Investment levels must be increased in order to attain greater, MDG-consistent growth rates in order to eradicate poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. It is necessary to repeatedly commit to increasing aid assistance and supplies to sub-Saharan Africa, but it must to be delivered swiftly, and access speed is crucial. If sub-Saharan Africa is to be able to re-establish a level of growth sufficient and reduce the levels of poverty, this alone will not be enough. The issue in the sub-Sahara area and countries must be addressed globally, and new and extra resources must be made available.

Job opportunities should be made available for the youth through small and medium business towards self-reliant and be an employer of labor from their small-scale enterprises cum their entrepreneur innovative efforts and lots more. Adequate training for local security networks and agencies is essential and can be effective in offering local intelligence gathering and thereby pass it over to the appropriate military or established intelligence unit where such information is vital and essential.

On corruption, the government in sub-Saharan African countries should put in place an efficient strategy and mechanism that can checkmate the menace of corruption, eliminate revenue/income leakages across the respective government areas while leveraging on digital technological innovations which will be embedded in government operations.

Funding: No funding, grants, or other support were received.

Conflict of interest: The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

References

- Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO (2011). The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2011: How does international price volatility affect domestic economies and food security? Rome, FAO. <u>http://www.fao.org/3/a-i2330e.pdf</u>
- Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO (2020) Migrant Workers and the COVID-19 Pandemic. Rome, FAO. <u>http://www.fao.org/3/ca8559en/CA8559EN.pdf</u>
- Haley, E., Caxaj, S., George, G., Hennebry, J.L., Martell, E. & McLaughlin, J. (2020). Migrant farmworkers face heightened vulnerabilities during COVID-19. *Journal* of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development 9(3), 1-5.
- Heady, D. & Shenggen, F. (2008). Anatomy of Crisis: The causes and consequences of surging Food Crisis. *Agricultural Economics* 39(1) 375-391.
- Ikenna, A.M. (2009). Understanding the Crisis of development in Africa; A reflection of Bedford Umez's analysis. *African journal of political science and international relations* 3(9).
- Kumo, W.L. (2009). Root causes of African Underdevelopment and Opportunities for Revival.
- Ogungbure, A. A. (2020). The Possibilities of Technological Development in Africa: An Evaluation Role of Culture. *The Journal of Pan African studies* IV, 86-100.
- Olaoye, O.O,. Ishola, J.A., Omokanmi, O.J., Ogunjumo, R. A., Olofinlade, S.O., and Ojelade
- M.O., Ibitowa, S.A. (2023). A robust economic analysis of government interventions in Sub-Saharan African countries: is there a pro- poor effect? *Iranian Economic Review*, University of Teheran. <u>https://doi.org/10.22059/IER.2023.90676</u>
- Terazono, E. & Munshi, N. (2020, July 30). Shock waves: how coronavirus shook the cocoa market. *Financial Times*. <u>https://www.ft.com/content/37aa0ac8-e879-4dc2b751-3eb862b12276</u>

Torero, M. (2020, August 31) Prepare food systems for a long-haul fight against COVID-19. Washington, DC, IFPRI. <u>https://www.ifpri.org/blog/prepare-food-systems-long-haul-fight-against-covid-19</u>

- United Nations, UN (2020, July). *Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Latin America and the Caribbean*. <u>https://unsdg.un.org/resources/policy-brief-impact-covid-19-lat-in-america-and-caribbean</u>
- World Food Programme, WFP (2020, June 26). Responding to the development emergency caused by COVID-19. WFP's Medium-Term Programme Framework. <u>https://www. wfp.org/publications/responding-development-emergency-caused-covid-19-wfps-medium-term-programming</u>

Sub Saharan countries used in the study.

Nigeria Botswana Congo Republic Gambia Sao Tome and Principe Sevchelles Sudan Equatorial Guinea Namibia Zimbabwe Liberia Mali Benin Cameroon Chad Gabon Guinea Bissau Madagascar Mauritius Rwanda Sierra Leone Togo

Angola Cape Verde Congo Dem. Republic Ghana Malawi South Africa Ethiopia Kenya Zambia Burkina Faso Cote d'Ivoire Mozambique Burundi Central African Republic Comoros Guinea Lesotho Mauritania Niger Senegal Tanzania Uganda