



# AFRICA 2026 AND BEYOND

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND INVESTOR OPPORTUNITIES

ISAAH MHLANGA, CHIEF ECONOMIST

A LEADING AFRICAN CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT BANK

# OUTLINE



1. **RMB Where To Invest In Africa rankings 2025/26**
2. **The global fracturing and the shock of the war in the Middle East**
3. **Africa's Vulnerability to the Middle East conflict**
4. **Macroeconomic outlook**

# 1. RMB WHERE TO INVEST IN AFRICA 2025/26 RANKINGS

WTIIA 2025/26  
WTIIA 2025/26  
WTIIA 2025/26  
WTIIA 2025/26



RMB is the gateway to corporate and investment banking (CIB) in Africa, with an extensive deal footprint in over 35 African countries. We facilitate trade and investment flows between Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

# WTIIA MODEL: PILLARS, METRICS AND WEIGHTINGS

PILLAR	PILLAR WEIGHT	METRIC	Z- SCORES	METRIC WEIGHT
Pillar 1: <b>ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE &amp; POTENTIAL</b>	35%	1	GDP	7.5%
		2	GDP per Capita	5.0 %
		3	Growth Structure	2.5%
		4	GDP Growth Forecast	7.5%
		5	Population Size	7.5%
		6	Population Growth	2.5%
		7	Urbanisation	2.5%
Pillar 2: <b>MARKET ACCESSIBILITY &amp; INNOVATION</b>	20 %	8	Economic Complexity	5.0 %
		9	Connectedness	5.0 %
		10	Innovation	5.0 %
		11	Import Concentration	5.0 %
Pillar 3: <b>ECONOMIC STABILITY &amp; INVESTMENT CLIMATE</b>	25%	12	Forex Stability & Liquidity	5.0 %
		13	Economic Freedom	5.0 %
		14	Inflation	5.0 %
		15	Corruption	5.0 %
		16	Political Stability	5.0 %
Pillar 4: <b>SOCIAL &amp; HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>	20 %	17	Human Development	5.0 %
		18	Income Inequality	5.0 %
		19	Personal Freedom	5.0 %
		20	Unemployment	5.0 %



The RMB Where to Invest in Africa (WTIIA) Index focuses on fundamentals – what economists refer to as structural elements. These are factors that are foundational, slow-moving, and robust – rather than fickle, flighty, and erratic.

WTIIA2025/26

WTIIA2025/26



# MOVERS

## WTIIA 2025/26

WTIIA2025/26

WTIIA2025/26

WTIIA2025/26

- 11 countries retain their positions in this year's report.
- Modest moves of between one and three positions apply to a further 14 countries.
- So, just over half of our countries moved at most one position.

Country	Rank 2025/26	Rank 2024/25	Places moved & direction
Seychelles	1	1	0 ▶
Mauritius	2	2	0 ▶
Egypt	3	3	0 ▶
South Africa	4	4	0 ▶
Morocco	5	5	0 ▶
Ghana	6	6	0 ▶
Algeria	7	10	3 ▲
Côte d'Ivoire	8	16	8 ▲
Tanzania	9	12	3 ▲
Kenya	10	11	1 ▲
Ethiopia	11	13	2 ▲
Tunisia	12	7	-5 ▼
Botswana	13	14	1 ▲
Senegal	14	8	-6 ▼
Zambia	15	20	5 ▲
Rwanda	16	15	-1 ▼
Namibia	17	18	1 ▲
Nigeria	18	9	-9 ▼
Uganda	19	19	0 ▶
Benin	20	17	-3 ▼
Gabon	21	21	0 ▶
Madagascar	22	22	0 ▶
Angola	23	24	1 ▲
DRC	24	26	2 ▲
Malawi	25	25	0 ▶
Cameroon	26	27	1 ▲
Congo, Bra.	27	29	2 ▲
Mozambique	28	23	-5 ▼
Eswatini	29	30	1 ▲
Lesotho	30	28	-2 ▼
Zimbabwe	31	31	0 ▶

- A total four positions – admittedly interesting, but still modest.
- Just six countries experienced moves of five places or more.
- Larger rises or falls invite deeper analysis at a country analysis to better understand. We expand on these throughout the report.

# MOVERS

## WTIIA 2025/26

### Cote d'Ivoire



Country	Rank 2025/26	Rank 2024/25	Places moved & direction
Seychelles	1	1	0 ▶
Mauritius	2	2	0 ▶
Egypt	3	3	0 ▶
South Africa	4	4	0 ▶
Morocco	5	5	0 ▶
Ghana	6	6	0 ▶
Algeria	7	10	3 ▲
Côte d'Ivoire	8	16	8 ▲
Tanzania	9	12	3 ▲
Kenya	10	11	1 ▲
Ethiopia	11	13	2 ▲
Tunisia	12	7	-5 ▼
Botswana	13	14	1 ▲
Senegal	14	8	-6 ▼
Zambia	15	20	5 ▲
Rwanda	16	15	-1 ▼
Namibia	17	18	1 ▲
Nigeria	18	9	-9 ▼
Uganda	19	19	0 ▶
Benin	20	17	-3 ▼
Gabon	21	21	0 ▶
Madagascar	22	22	0 ▶
Angola	23	24	1 ▲
DRC	24	26	2 ▲
Malawi	25	25	0 ▶
Cameroon	26	27	1 ▲
Congo, Bra.	27	29	2 ▲
Mozambique	28	23	-5 ▼
Eswatini	29	30	1 ▲
Lesotho	30	28	-2 ▼
Zimbabwe	31	31	0 ▶

- Faster economic growth 6%+ since 2021
- Near universal electrification
- Improvement in agricultural local processing, especially cocoa and cashew nuts with investment backing from the World Bank and UAE's Al Sayegh Group.

WTIIA2025/26

WTIIA2025/26

WTIIA2025/26

# MOVERS

## WTIIA 2025/26

### Zambia



### RMB Where to Invest in Africa rankings

Country	Rank 2025/26	Rank 2024/25	Places move d & direction
Seychelles	1	1	0 ▶
Mauritius	2	2	0 ▶
Egypt	3	3	0 ▶
South Africa	4	4	0 ▶
Morocco	5	5	0 ▶
Ghana	6	6	0 ▶
Algeria	7	10	3 ▲
Côte d'Ivoire	8	16	8 ▲
Tanzania	9	12	3 ▲
Kenya	10	11	1 ▲
Ethiopia	11	13	2 ▲
Tunisia	12	7	-5 ▼
Botswana	13	14	1 ▲
Senegal	14	8	-6 ▼
Zambia	15	20	5 ▲
Rwanda	16	15	-1 ▼
Namibia	17	18	1 ▲
Nigeria	18	9	-9 ▼
Uganda	19	19	0 ▶
Benin	20	17	-3 ▼
Gabon	21	21	0 ▶
Madagascar	22	22	0 ▶
Angola	23	24	1 ▲
DRC	24	26	2 ▲
Malawi	25	25	0 ▶
Cameroon	26	27	1 ▲
Congo, Bra.	27	29	2 ▲
Mozambique	28	23	-5 ▼
Eswatini	29	30	1 ▲
Lesotho	30	28	-2 ▼
Zimbabwe	31	31	0 ▶



- Higher copper prices supported economic growth and investment in the mining sector
- Debt restructuring and Moody's credit rating outlook upgrade to positive from stable

WTIIA2025/26

WTIIA2025/26

WTIIA2025/26

# MOVERS

## WTIIA 2025/26

### Nigeria



### RMB Where to Invest in Africa rankings

Country	Rank 2025/26	Rank 2024/25	Places moved & direction
Seychelles	1	1	0 ▶
Mauritius	2	2	0 ▶
Egypt	3	3	0 ▶
South Africa	4	4	0 ▶
Morocco	5	5	0 ▶
Ghana	6	6	0 ▶
Algeria	7	10	3 ▲
Côte d'Ivoire	8	16	8 ▲
Tanzania	9	12	3 ▲
Kenya	10	11	1 ▲
Ethiopia	11	13	2 ▲
Tunisia	12	7	-5 ▼
Botswana	13	14	1 ▲
Senegal	14	8	-6 ▼
Zambia	15	20	5 ▲
Rwanda	16	15	-1 ▼
Namibia	17	18	1 ▲
Nigeria	18	9	-9 ▼
Uganda	19	19	0 ▶
Benin	20	17	-3 ▼
Gabon	21	21	0 ▶
Madagascar	22	22	0 ▶
Angola	23	24	1 ▲
DRC	24	26	2 ▲
Malawi	25	25	0 ▶
Cameroon	26	27	1 ▲
Congo, Bra.	27	29	2 ▲
Mozambique	28	23	-5 ▼
Eswatini	29	30	1 ▲
Lesotho	30	28	-2 ▼
Zimbabwe	31	31	0 ▶



- The naira (NGN) depreciated significantly against the USD when multiple exchange rates were collapsed into a single market-driven rate on 23 June 2023.
- This has had a large effect on GDP, which fell from the US\$374.95bn reported in the 2024/25 edition of our WTIIA report to a GDP of US\$187.64bn in 2024, before the GDP data rebasing exercise.
- Inflation has been a major headwind, driven by the removal of the contentious but long-standing fuel subsidies in mid-2023, sparking a fuel price increase of 167%.

WTIIA2025/26

WTIIA2025/26

WTIIA2025/26

# MOVERS

## WTIIA 2025/26

### Senegal



### RMB Where to Invest in Africa rankings

Country	Rank 2025/26	Rank 2024/25	Places move d & direction
Seychelles	1	1	0 ▶
Mauritius	2	2	0 ▶
Egypt	3	3	0 ▶
South Africa	4	4	0 ▶
Morocco	5	5	0 ▶
Ghana	6	6	0 ▶
Algeria	7	10	3 ▲
Côte d'Ivoire	8	16	8 ▲
Tanzania	9	12	3 ▲
Kenya	10	11	1 ▲
Ethiopia	11	13	2 ▲
Tunisia	12	7	-5 ▼
Botswana	13	14	1 ▲
Senegal	14	8	-6 ▼
Zambia	15	20	5 ▲
Rwanda	16	15	-1 ▼
Namibia	17	18	1 ▲
Nigeria	18	9	-9 ▼
Uganda	19	19	0 ▶
Benin	20	17	-3 ▼
Gabon	21	21	0 ▶
Madagascar	22	22	0 ▶
Angola	23	24	1 ▲
DRC	24	26	2 ▲
Malawi	25	25	0 ▶
Cameroon	26	27	1 ▲
Congo, Bra.	27	29	2 ▲
Mozambique	28	23	-5 ▼
Eswatini	29	30	1 ▲
Lesotho	30	28	-2 ▼
Zimbabwe	31	31	0 ▶



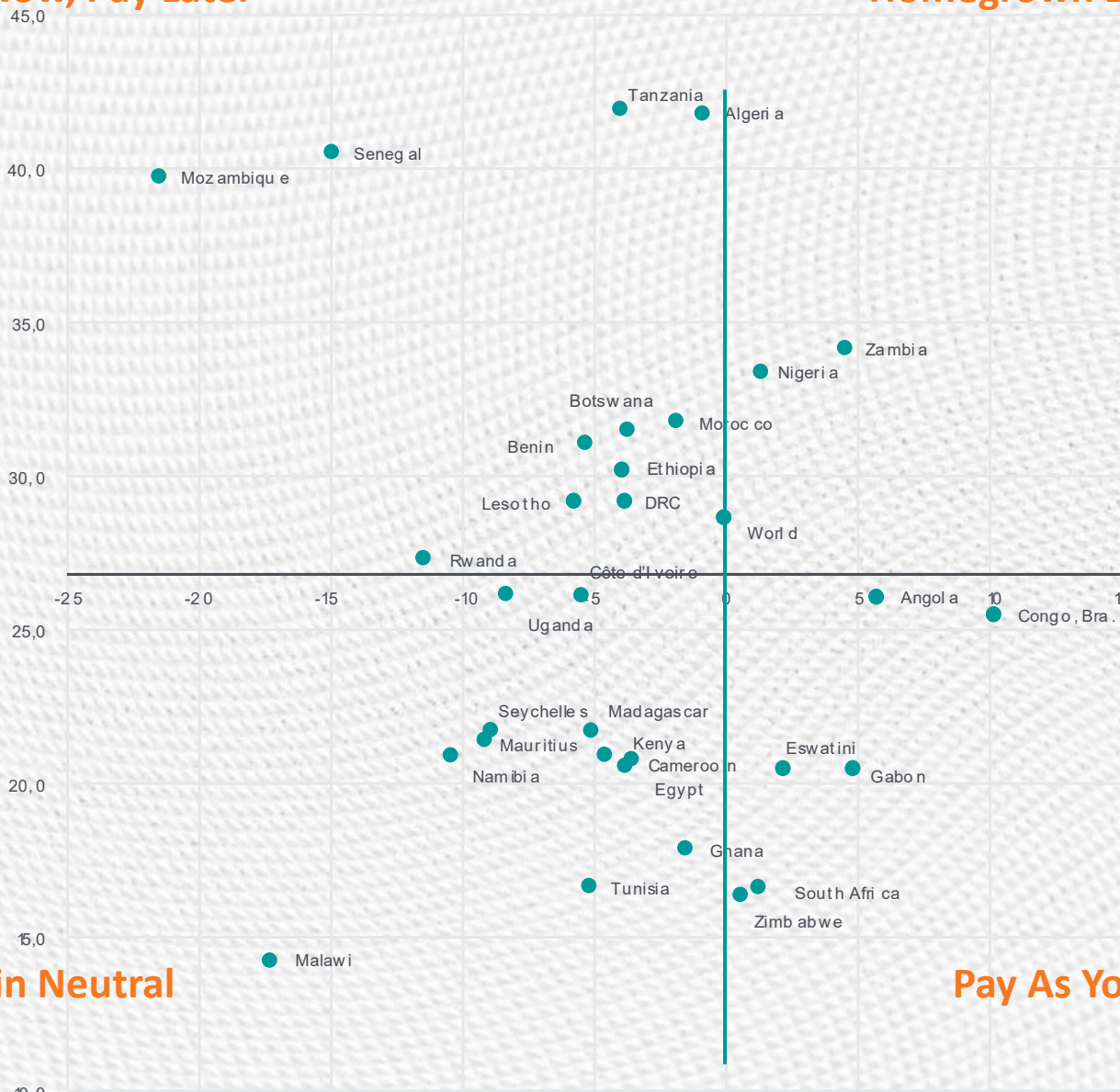
- Lower economic growth driven by policy shifts related to developments in the Sahel region, impact of the Ukraine war on food security (wheat and fertiliser)
- Despite the positive and constructive policy moves made by the government, S&P Global Ratings lowered its long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings for Senegal in July 2025 to B- from B, with a negative outlook.
- The IMF suspended Senegal's US\$1.8bn programme in
- October 2024, demanding clarity on a US\$7bn fiscal
- hole before engaging in further discussion.

Build Now, Pay Later

Homegrown Builders

Gross Capital Formation (% GDP, ave 2020 - 2025)

Growth Archetypes

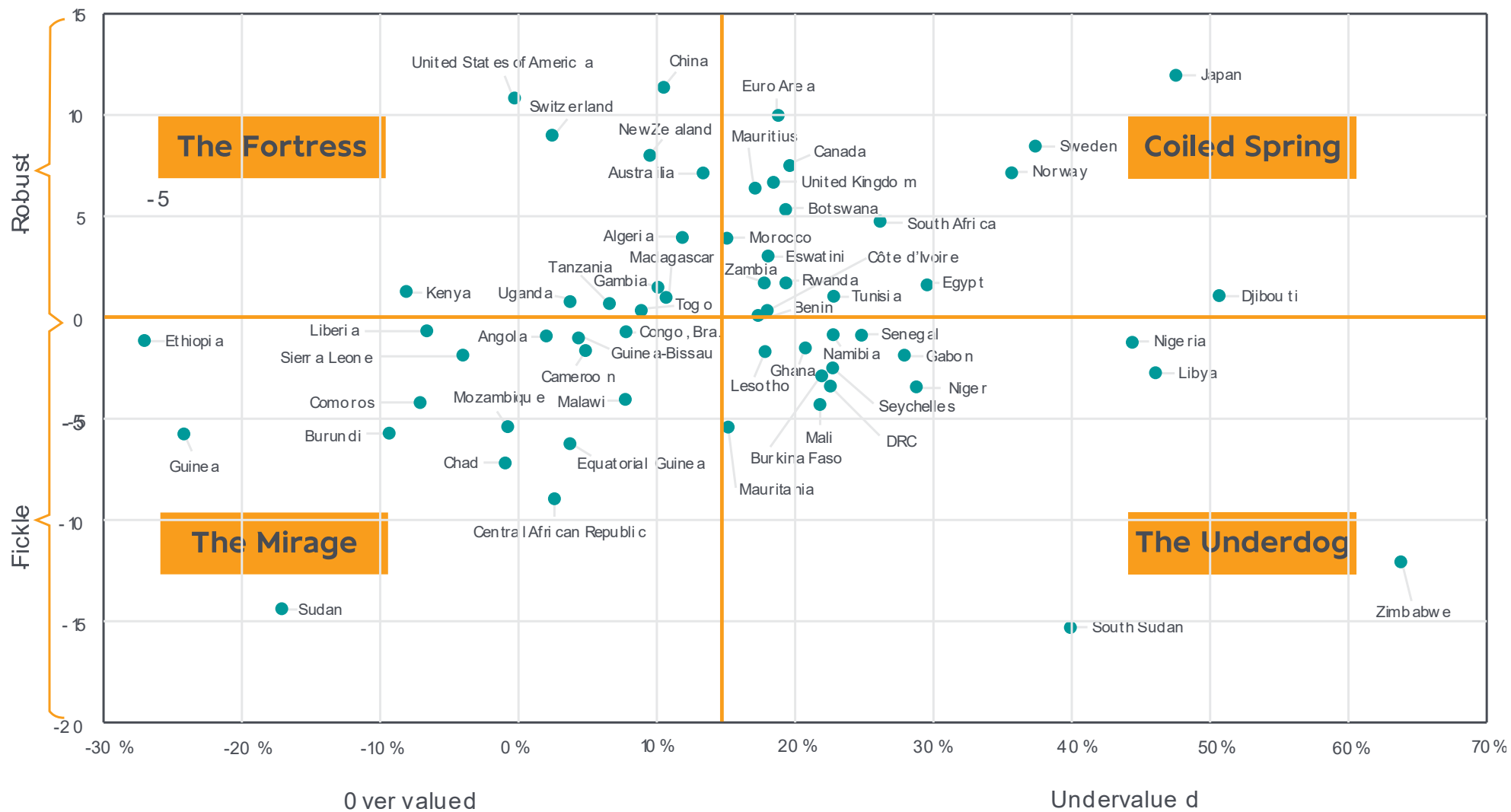


Stuck in Neutral

Pay As You Go

Current Account (% GDP, ave 2020-2025)

## Currency archetypes



**Currencies: Stability, Structure & Strength**

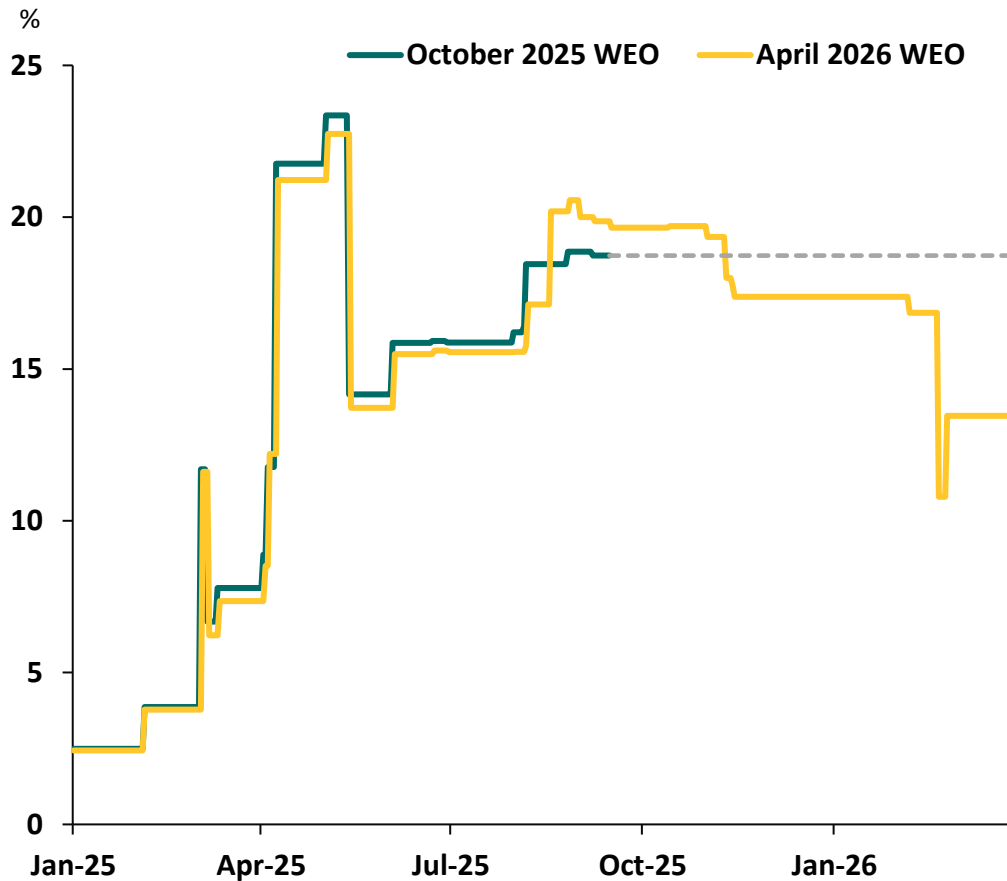
## 2. GLOBAL FRACTURING AND THE SHOCK OF WAR: EVOLVING, UNCERTAIN, PROFOUND IMPACT



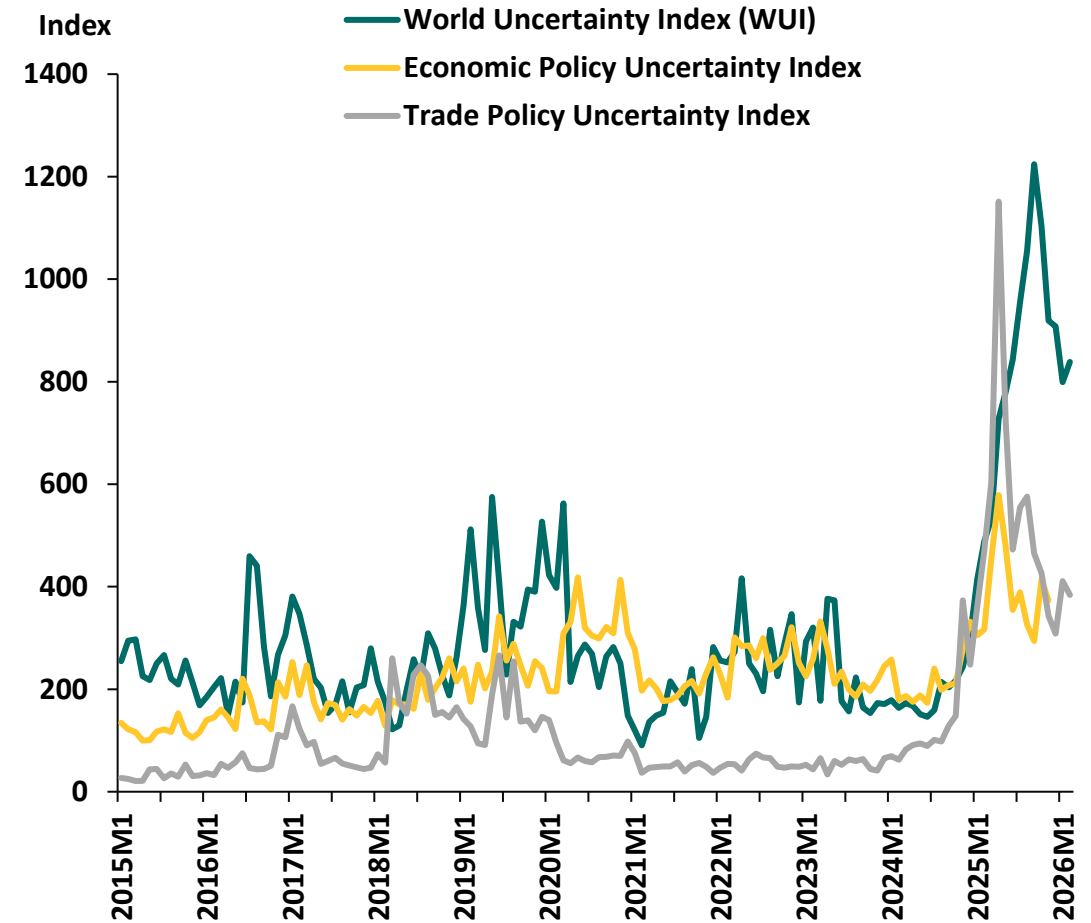
# ONGOING TRADE UNCERTAINTY



## US Effective Statutory Tariff Rate



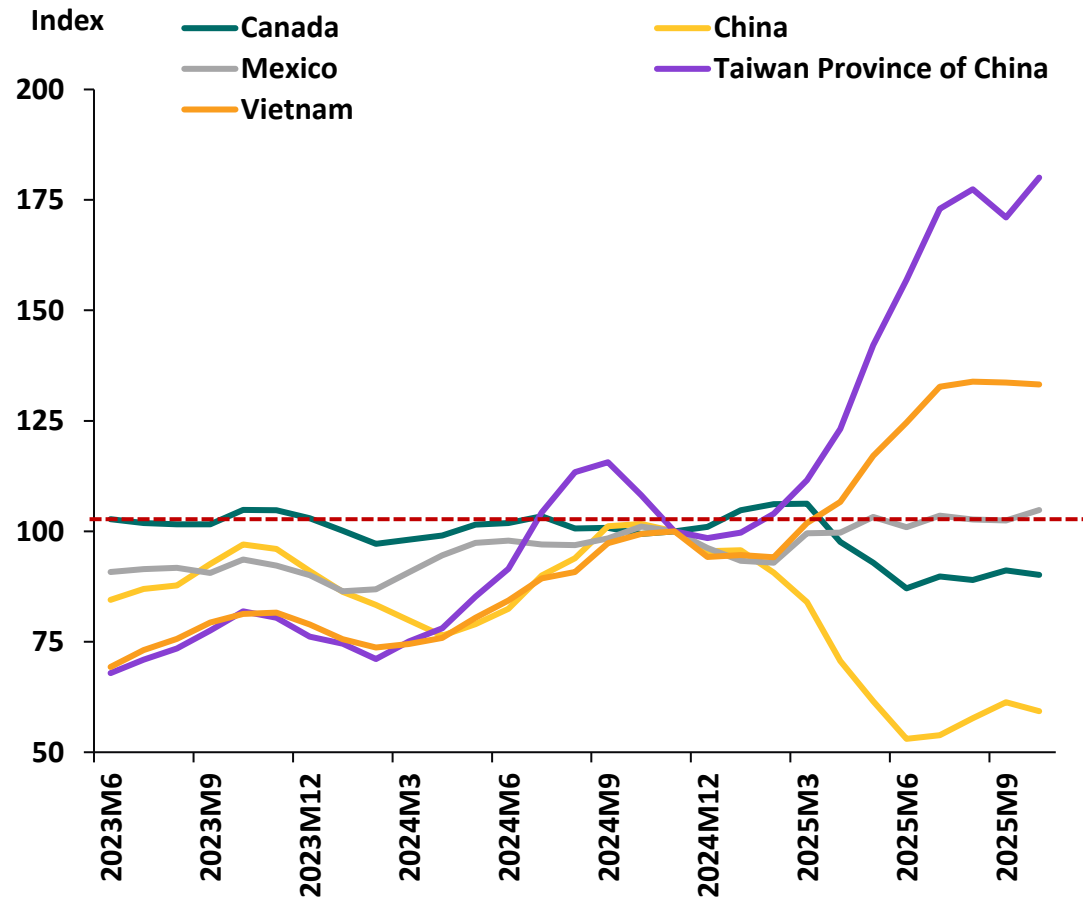
## Global Uncertainty



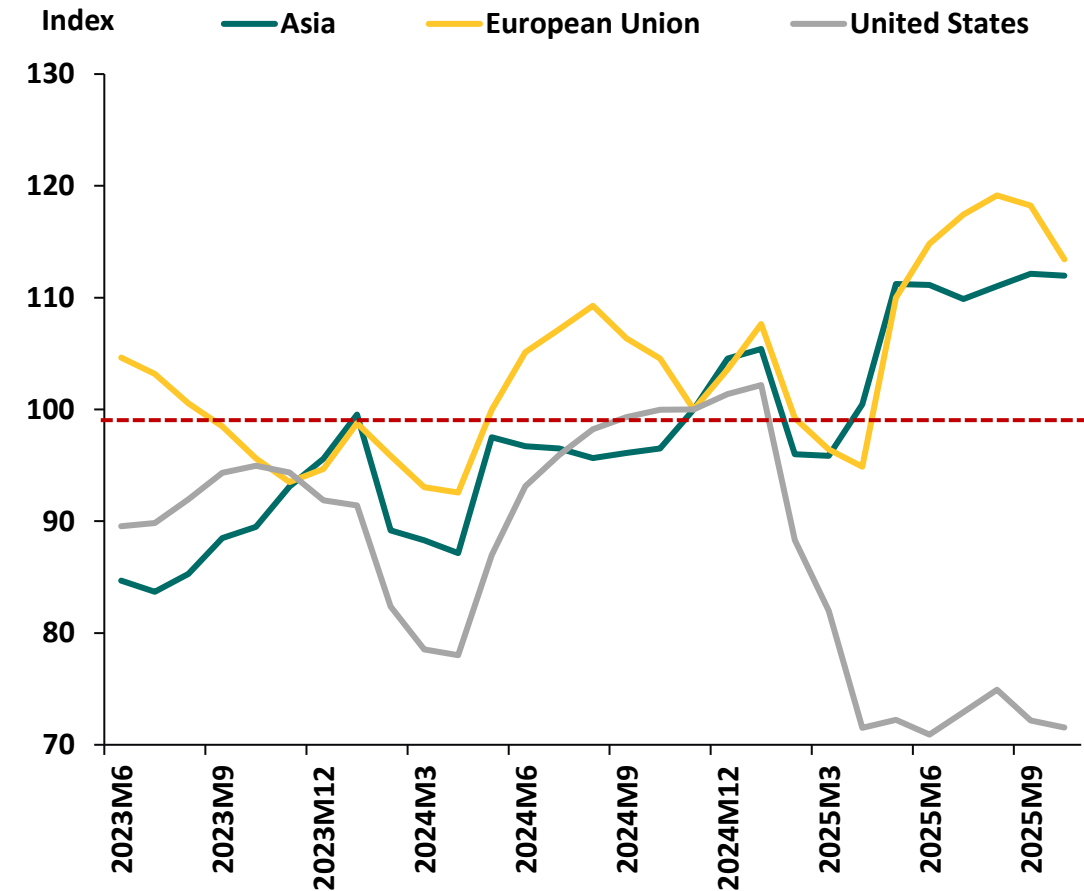
# REORIENTATION OF GLOBAL TRADE



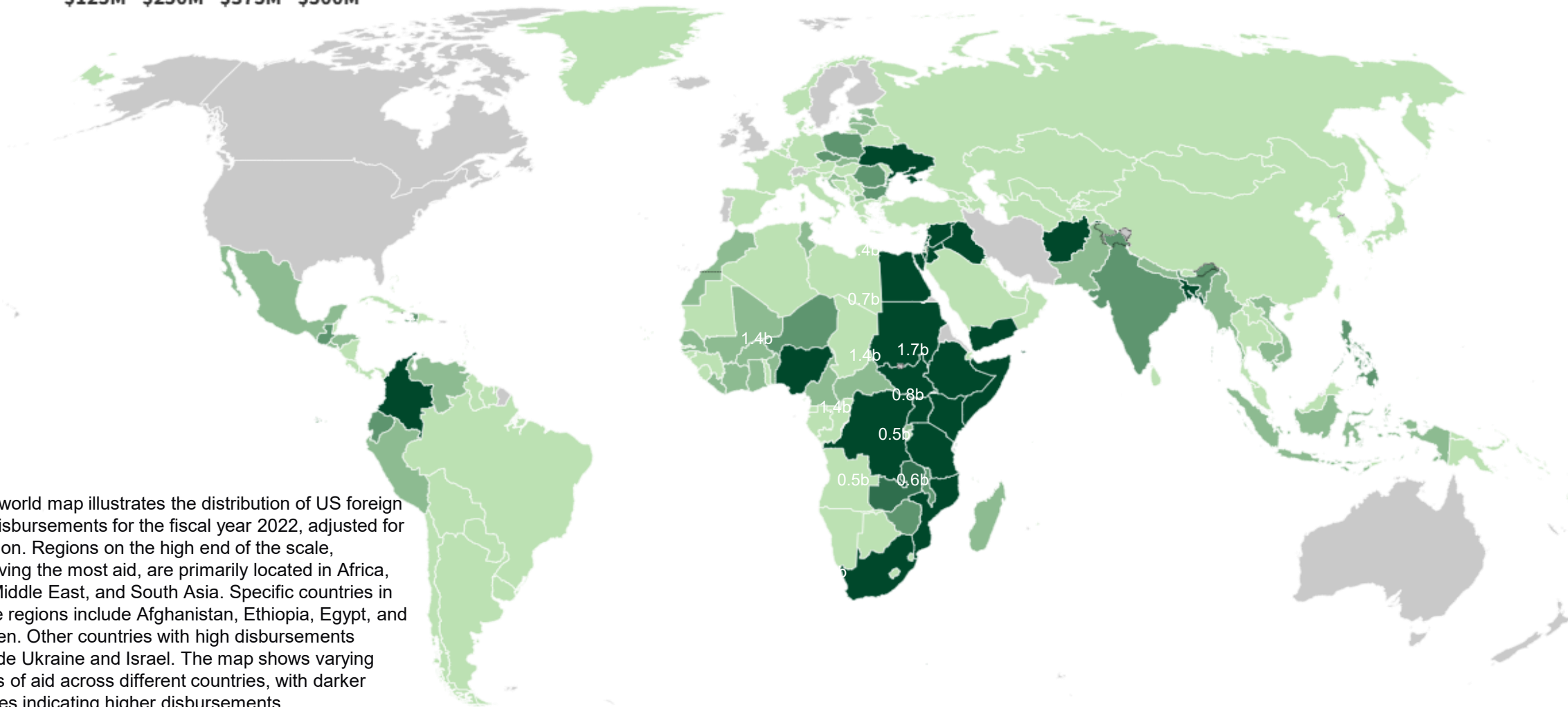
## US imports



## China's exports



# THE US'S FOREIGN AID GLOBAL REACH IS MORE PREVALENT IN AFRICA



This world map illustrates the distribution of US foreign aid disbursements for the fiscal year 2022, adjusted for inflation. Regions on the high end of the scale, receiving the most aid, are primarily located in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. Specific countries in these regions include Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Yemen. Other countries with high disbursements levels include Ukraine and Israel. The map shows varying levels of aid across different countries, with darker shades indicating higher disbursements.

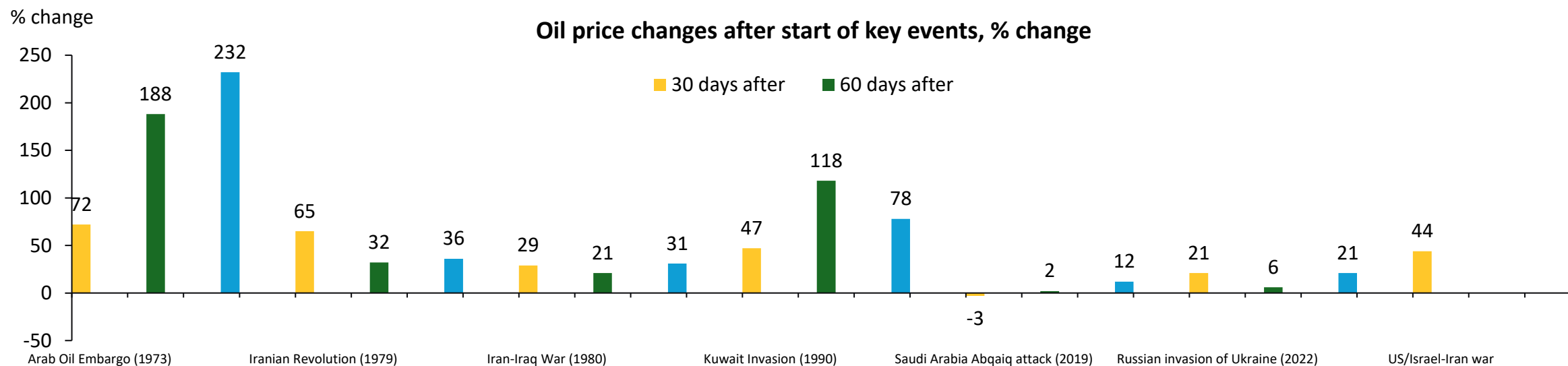
# THE SHOCK OF WAR: HISTORIC OIL PRICE IMPACT LARGER THAN NOW



Scale of disruption, million barrels per day



Oil price changes after start of key events, % change



# SEVERAL SECTORS ALREADY DISRUPTED AND THE LIST IS GROWING



Shipping



Gas



Oil



Aviation



Chemicals



**Why is it disrupted?**

**~900+** vessels/week usually transit Hormuz

Security risk as insurance voided and ship attacks expand

**17%** of global LNG flows via Hormuz

LNG supply chain not flexible due to need for custom infrastructure

**20%** of global supply transits Hormuz

Hormuz blockage and refinery closures limit supply and raise prices

**20%** of global air cargo & 450M passengers per year through GCC

Jet fuel price hikes and regional shortages impacting air travel

**24%** of the world's traded aluminum transits the ME

Raw materials disruption stalls Gulf smelters to export finished aluminum

**10-30%** of selected key chemicals\* transit Hormuz

Supply shocks affect inputs for polymers, fertilizers, and tech and prices

**Level of disruption**

Severe

Severe

Severe

Moderate

Moderate

Moderate

**Geographic impact**

**South Asia, East Asia, and Africa** with main export reliance

**Asian** countries as main LNG recipients

**Europe** as exposed to spot market

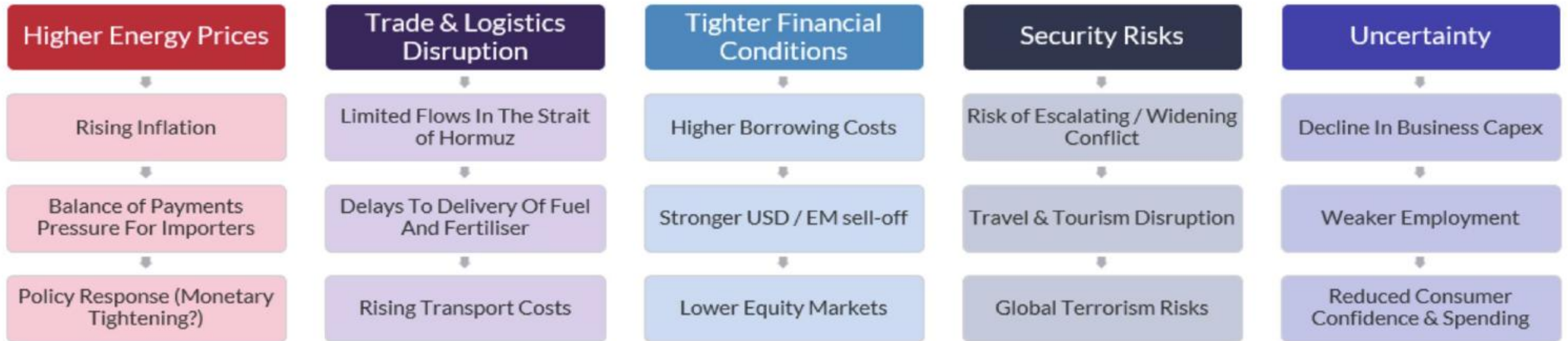
**Asian** countries as main oil recipients

**Asia-Europe-Africa** main cargo corridors  
Asia-Europe as main passenger transit corridor

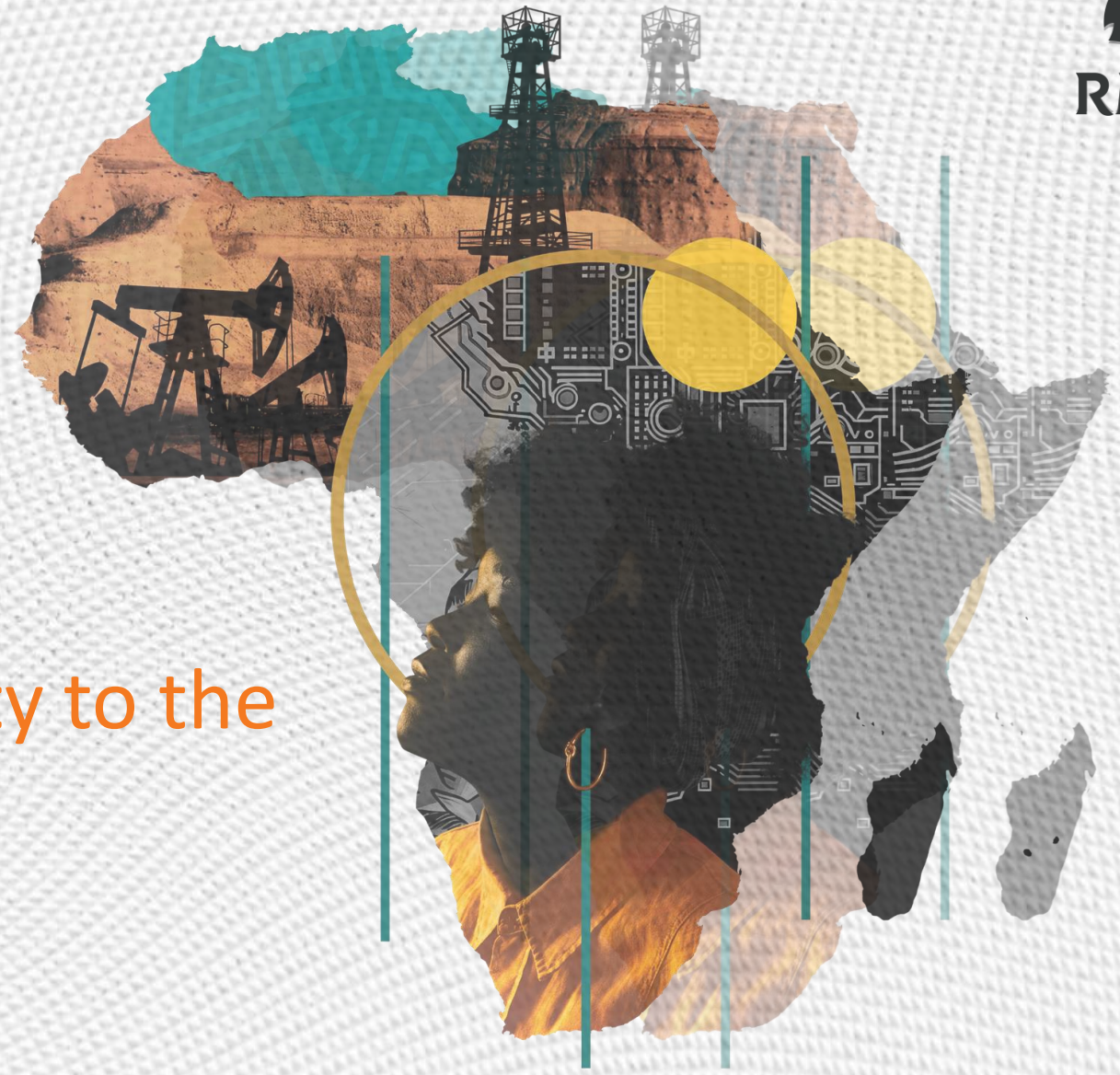
Gulf aluminum accounts for 14% of **Europe's** and 21% of **USA's** aluminum imports

**India** and **China** as main chemical importers

# US-IRAN CONFLICT AND TRANSMISSION TO GLOBAL ECONOMY

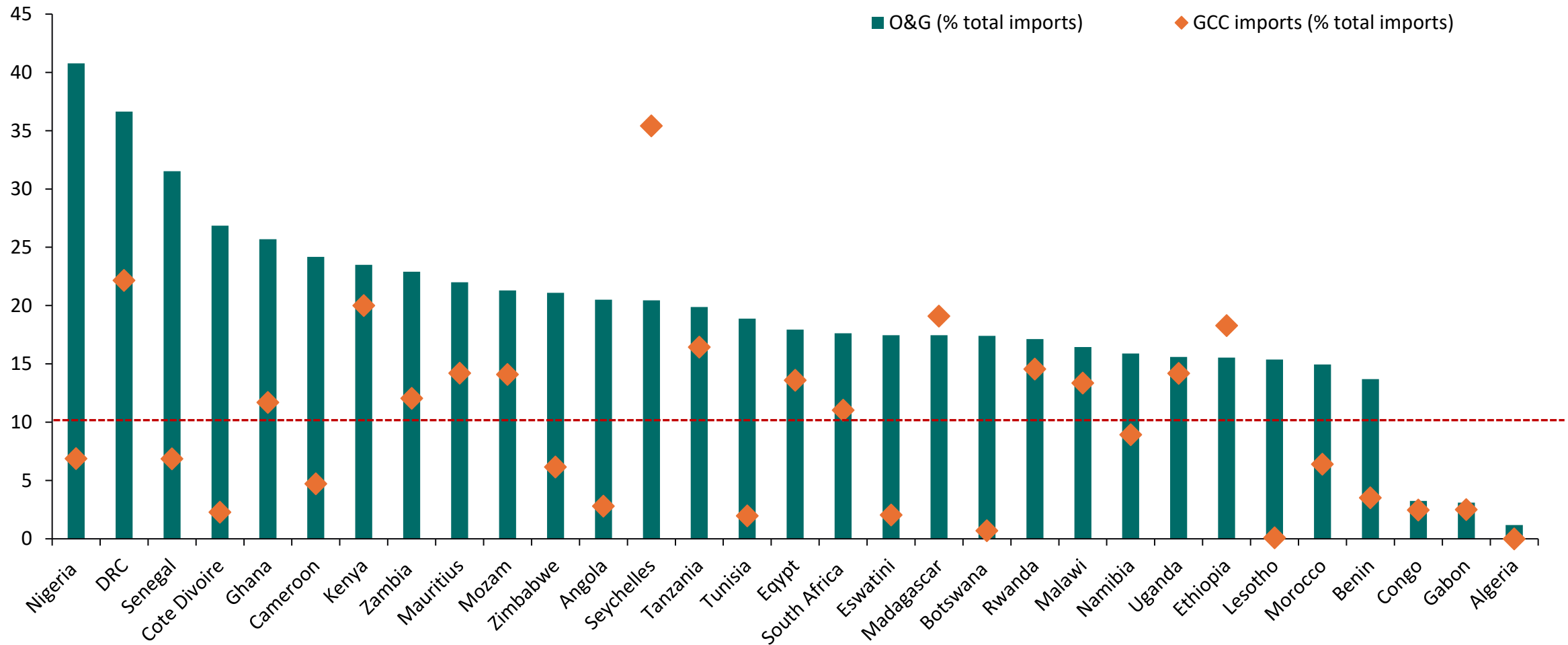


# AFRICA

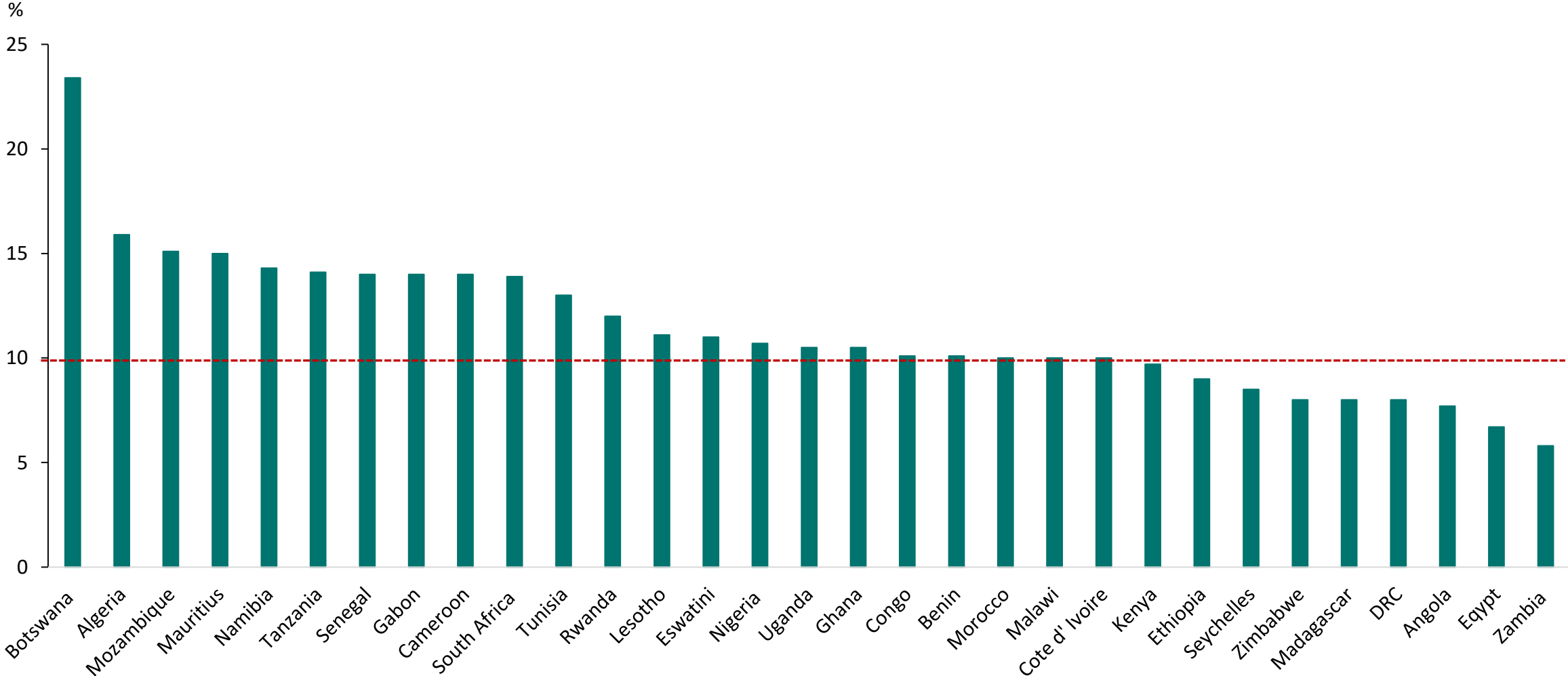


## 3. Africa's Vulnerability to the Middle East Conflict

# SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES' IMPORTS OF OIL AND GAS



# SELECTED AFRICAN TRANSPORT COMPONENT AS % OF CPI BASKETS



## OIL PRICE SHOCK – RECENT FUEL PRICE ADJUSTMENTS, GOVERNMENT ACTIONS



Country	Recent adjustment date	Direction size	Policy mechanism	Government action
<b>Angola</b>	24 March 2025	↑ Diesel +100AOA/litre	Administered pricing; subsidy reform	Gradual subsidy removal since 2023; prices still administered with stepwise hikes
<b>Botswana</b>	31 March 2026	↑ Petrol +BWP5.05/l, Diesel +BWP8.77/l	Regulated pump price	Pass through via BERA formula, temporary suspension of general fuel and road levy for 6 months
<b>Egypt</b>	10 March 2026	↑14–17% across fuels	Automatic Pricing Mechanism	Price freeze for at least 1 year announced after Oct 2025 hike
<b>Ghana</b>	15 April 2026	↑ Petrol floor GHS13.30, Diesel GHS17.10	Price floors set by National Petroleum Authority	Minimum price floors prevent selling below thresholds (no hard cap); stabilises competition, not prices

## OIL PRICE SHOCK – RECENT FUEL PRICE ADJUSTMENTS, GOVERNMENT ACTIONS



Country	Recent adjustment date	Direction size	Policy mechanism	Government action
<b>Kenya</b>	15 March 2026	↔ Prices held flat	Monthly Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority formula	Implicit cap via stabilisation fund
<b>Mozambique</b>	19 June 2025	↓ (last) Petrol -2.6%, Diesel -8.0%	Regulated pump price,	Ongoing cost-structure reviews, government announced fuel prices will remain unchanged till the end of April 2026
<b>Namibia</b>	April 2026	Petrol +NAD2.50/litre, Diesel +NAD4.00/litre	Monthly cost recovery model with stabilisation tools	Government approved sharp increases due to global oil shocks, while temporarily cutting fuel taxes

# OIL PRICE SHOCK – RECENT FUEL PRICE ADJUSTMENTS, GOVERNMENT ACTIONS



Country	Recent adjustment date	Direction size	Policy mechanism	Government action
<b>Nigeria</b>	March 2026	New petrol prices are expected to be around NGN1,300/ltr, while diesel prices are likely to breach NGN2,000/ltr	Full market pricing (subsidies removed)	Government has maintained full subsidy removal
<b>Uganda</b>	April 2026	Petrol +UGX600/litre, Diesel +UGX200/litre	Regulated pump price	Government has retained higher excise duties while relying on UNOC's bulk import model to keep pump prices relatively stable despite taxes
<b>Zambia</b>	April 2026	Petrol +ZMW0.54/litre, Diesel +ZMW6.53/litre	Monthly cost recovery model with stabilisation tools	Suspension of excise duty on petrol and diesel Zero-rating of VAT on petrol and diesel imports for three months

# AFRICA

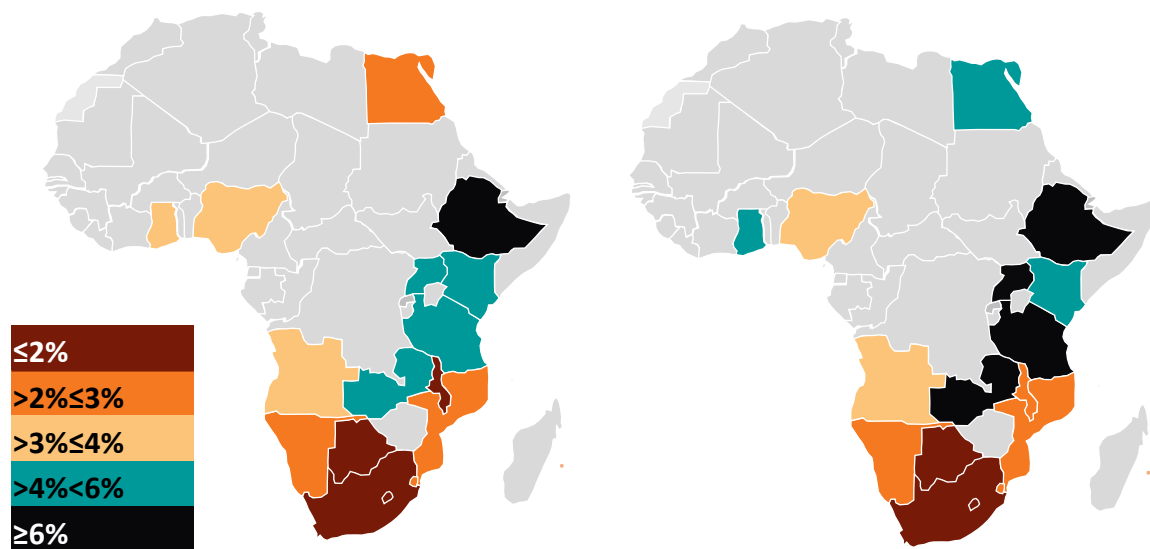


## 4. Macroeconomic outlook

# GDP GROWTH: BRIGHTER PROSPECTS AHEAD



GDP growth (% , y/y)



Average 2023- 2025E

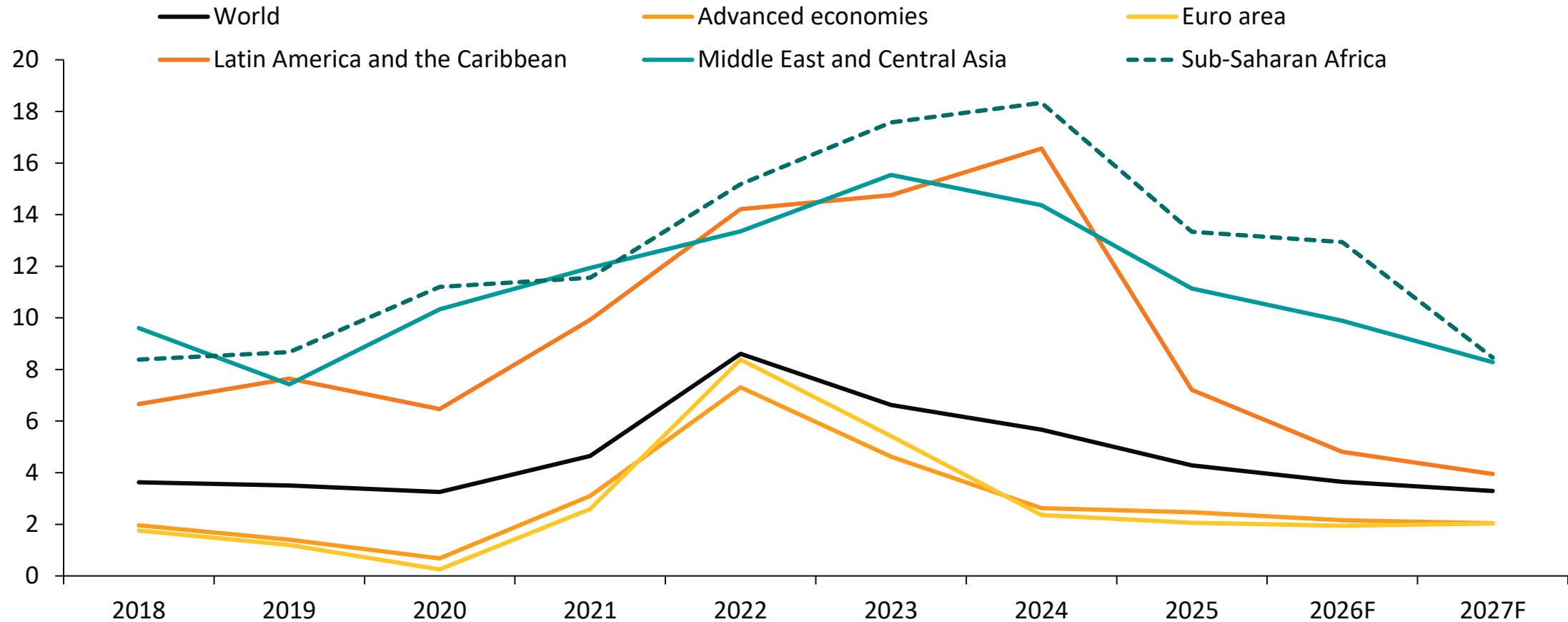
Average 2026-2028 (F)

	2025E	2026F	2027F
Angola	2.1	3.7	3.0
Botswana	-1.0	2.0	2.5
Egypt	4.4	4.8	5.0
Eswatini*	4.3	4.6	3.6
Ethiopia	7.2	7.1	7.7
Ghana	6.1	6.0	6.2
Kenya	5.1	5.4	5.5
Lesotho*	1.4	1.1	0.8
Malawi	2.4	2.7	3.1
Mozambique	-0.3	2.3	3.8
Namibia	2.5	2.8	3.5
Nigeria	3.9	4.2	4.0
Tanzania*	6.0	6.3	6.5
Uganda	6.2	6.5	10.0
Zambia	5.3	6.3	6.6

# WIDESPREAD DISINFLATION BUT THE OUTLOOK DEPENDS ON LENGTH AND SEVERITY OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT



Inflation has largely peaked (average, % y/y)



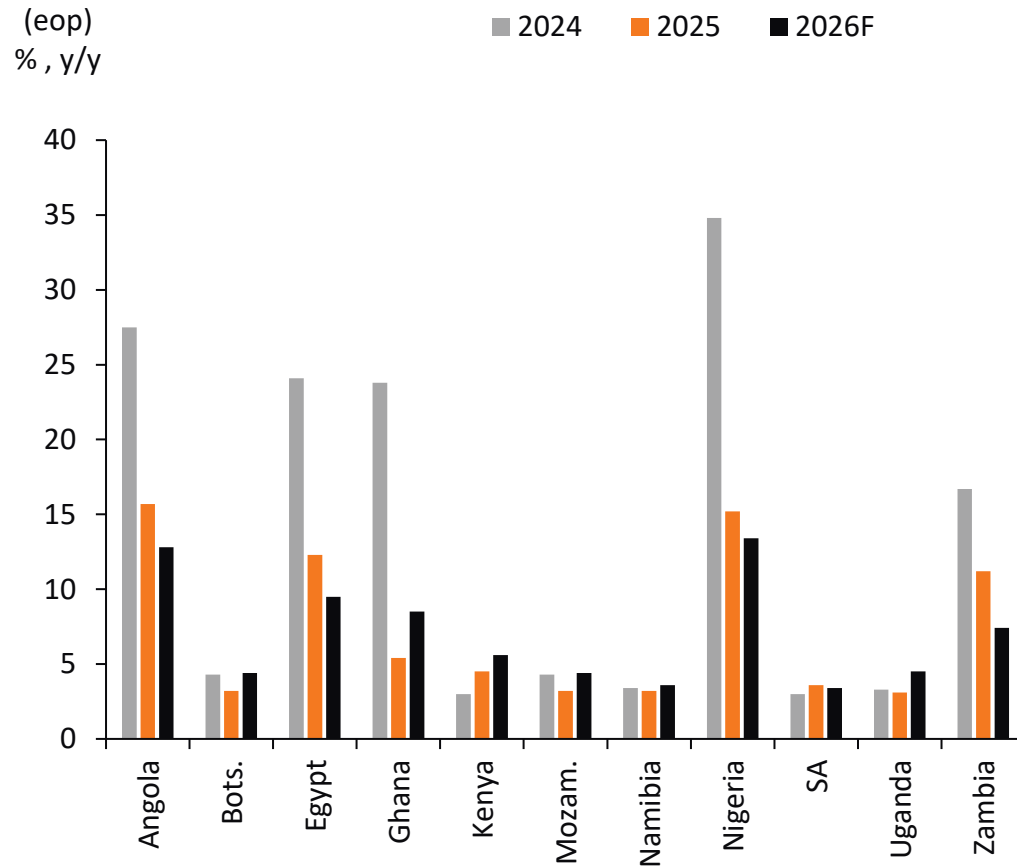
Source: IMF, Bloomberg, RMB Global Markets Research

Note: Malawi data is from the IMF; Nigeria forecasts are subject to revision at given recent base changes

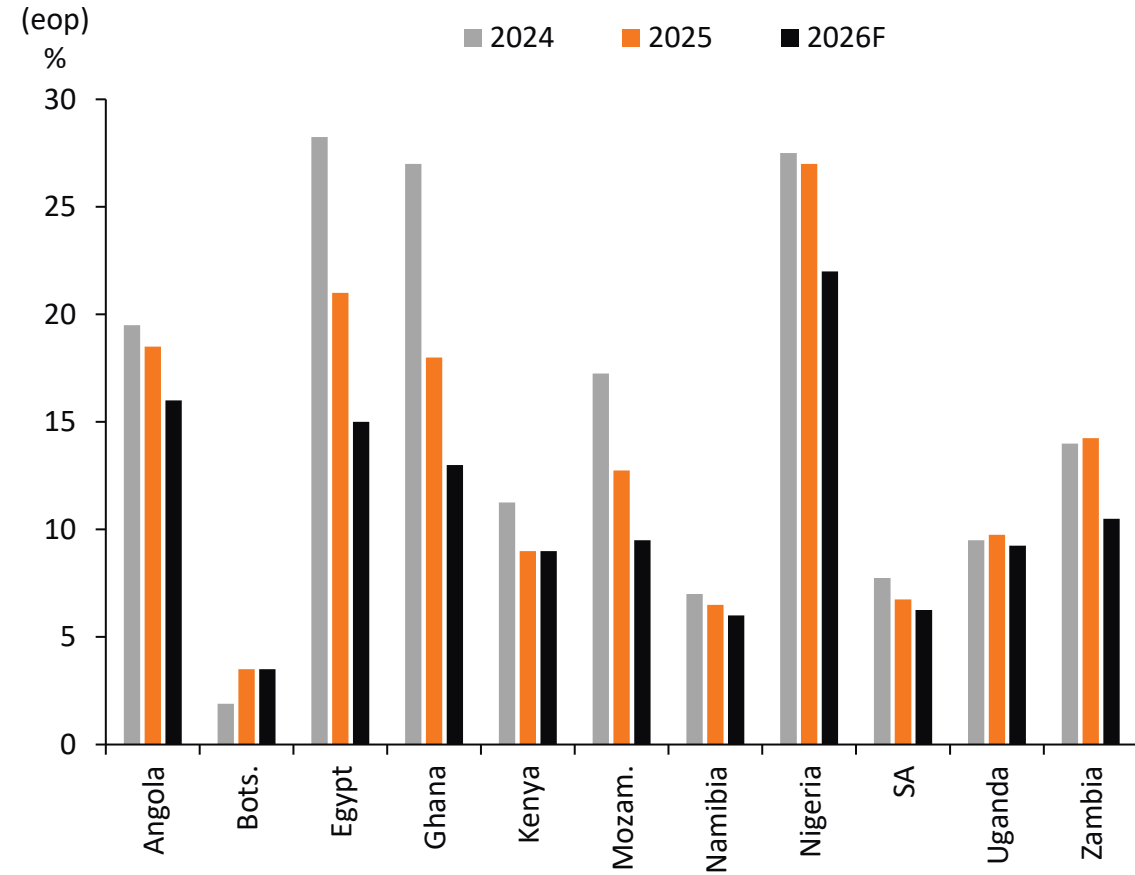
# STILL SOME INFLATION (RISKS SKEWED TO THE UPSIDE DUE TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAR)



## Disparity in inflation outlooks



## More policy rate cuts to come should inflation remain low



# OVER-RELIANCE ON OIL IS RISKY RENEWABLES REMAIN ESSENTIAL



## Post-Trump Global Energy Context

- US Federal support for renewables slowed under Trump’s second term
- Fossil fuel production expanded, increasing global oil supply uncertainty
- Global renewable investment continues via states, corporates, and emerging markets

## Geopolitics: The US–Israel–Iran War

- Emerging markets face currency weakness, higher fuel & food prices, and tighter finance

FACTOR	OIL DEPENDENCE	RENEWABLE ENERGY SHIFT
Price Stability	Highly volatile, sensitive to wars and supply shocks	Low and predictable operating costs
Geopolitical Exposure	High exposure to Middle East conflict and shipping chokepoints	Primarily domestic, reduced external risk
Economic Impact on Africa	Inflation, currency depreciation, fiscal stress	Job creation, energy security, stable growth
Long-Term Resilience	Declining global demand over time	Aligned with future energy and investment trends

## Africa’s Missed Energy Opportunity

- ~60% of global solar potential located in Africa
- <2% of global renewable energy capacity deployed
- Continued reliance on imported fuels despite abundant local resources



# AGRICULTURE CAN DRIVE GROWTH, FOOD SECURITY, AND EXPORTS

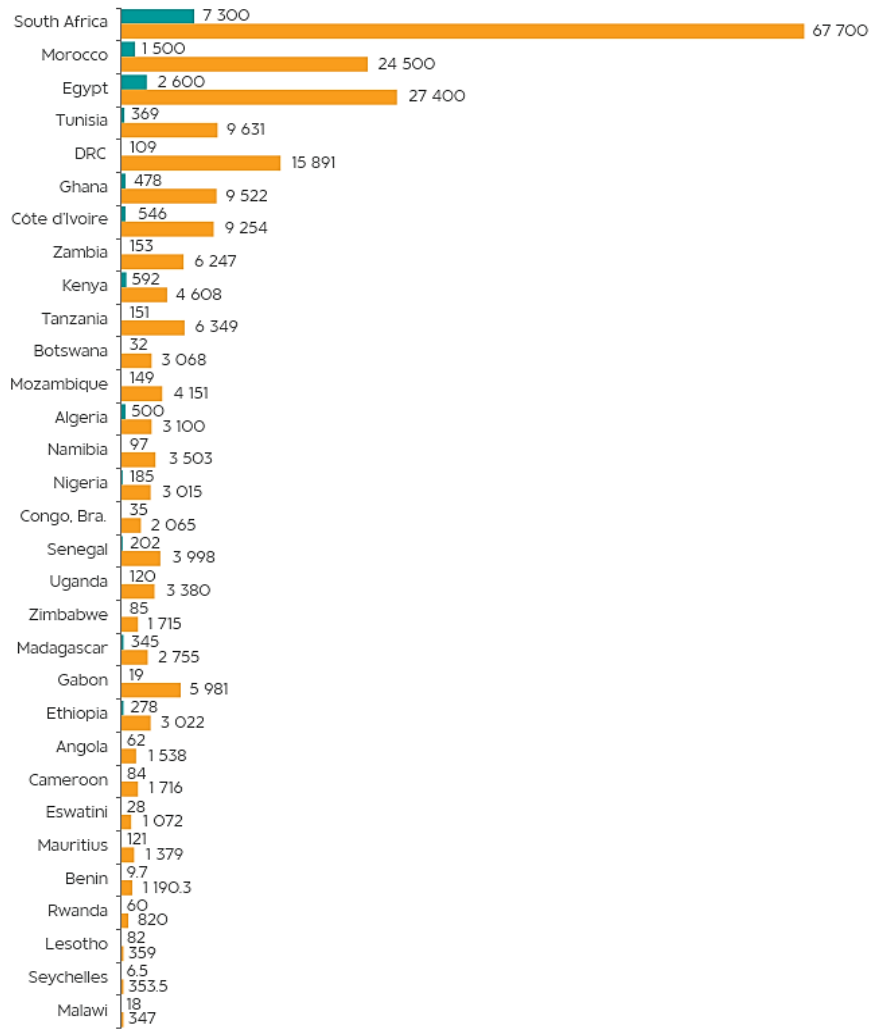
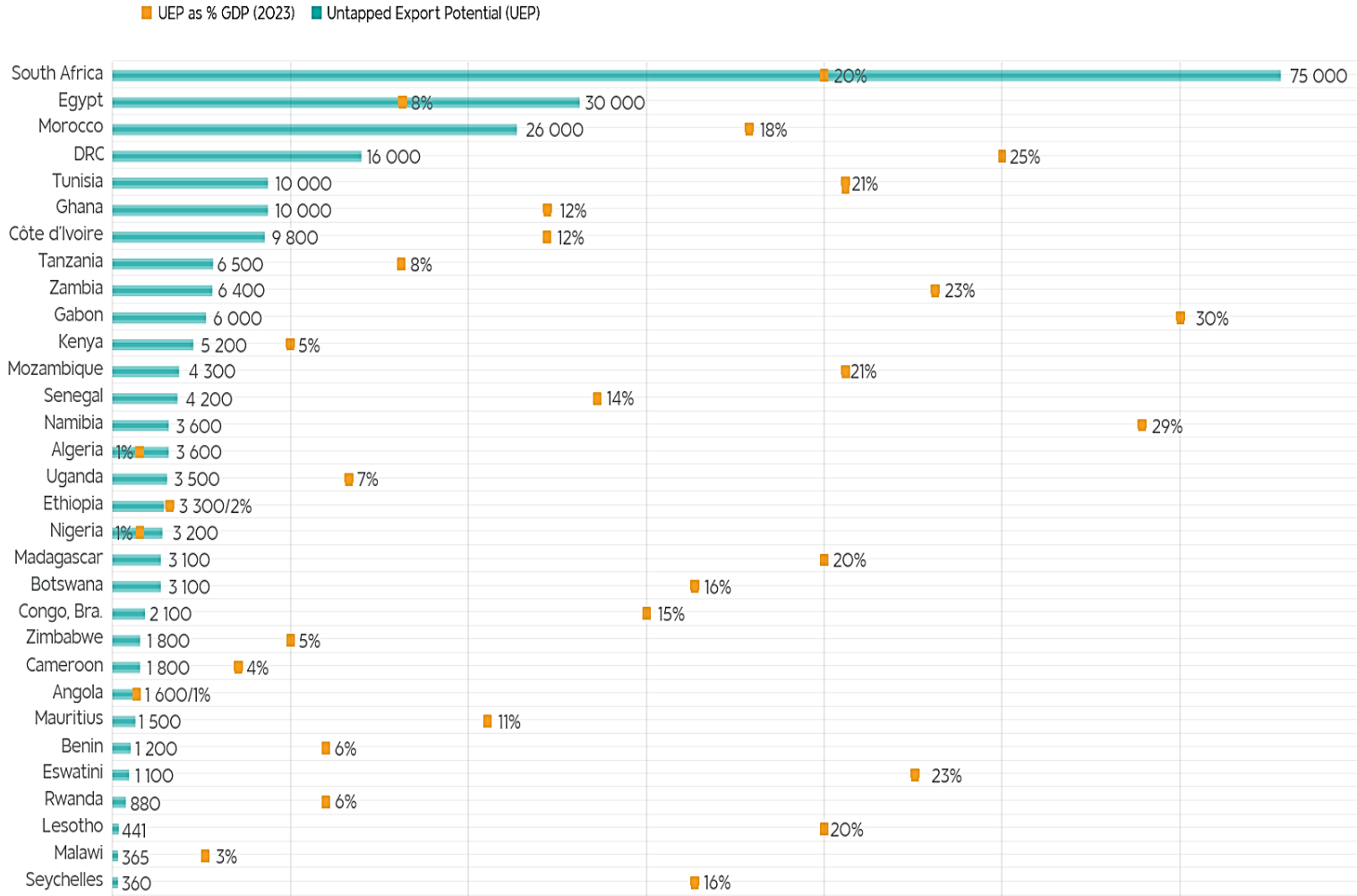


DIMENSION	AFRICA'S POSITION	IMPLICATION
<b>Arable Land</b>	~60% of global uncultivated arable land	Large scope to expand production sustainably
<b>Climate &amp; Sun</b>	High solar irradiation, diverse agro-ecological zones	Supports multiple crops and growing seasons
<b>Labour &amp; Demographics</b>	Young, fast-growing workforce	Potential for job creation in farming and agribusiness
<b>Current Productivity</b>	Below global yield averages	Significant upside from technology and investment
<b>Market Demand</b>	Rising urban and regional food demand	Opportunities for import substitution and exports

INVESTOR	PRIMARY REGIONS	MAIN FOCUS AREAS	STRATEGIC MOTIVATION
<b>China</b>	East & Southern Africa	Irrigation, mechanization, agri-tech, processing	Productivity gains, long-term food partnerships, infrastructure diplomacy
<b>Gulf States (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar)</b>	East & Southern Africa	Large-scale farming, animal feed, logistics	Food security, water scarcity, supply chain control
<b>European Union</b>	West, North & Southern Africa	Value chains, climate-smart farming, horticulture	Sustainability, export competitiveness, climate resilience
<b>India</b>	East & Southern Africa	Grains, sugar, pulses, horticulture	Trade integration, food security, South-South cooperation
<b>United States</b>	East & West Africa	Smallholder productivity, resilience, blended finance	Market development, stability, private-sector mobilisation



# UNTAPPED EXPORT POTENTIAL MUCH OF WHICH IS NON-US



# AFRICA

# THANK YOU

