

# Africa Report

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## UN Warns of Exploding Humanitarian Crisis in Sahel

In an April 27 release, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) stated that, “A new record high of 29 million Sahelians in six countries—Burkina Faso, northern Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, and north-east Nigeria—are now in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, five million more people than last year.”

“The number of violent attacks increased eight-fold in the Central Sahel and tripled in the Lake Chad basin, [with the result that] 5,000 schools are closed or non-operational ... and 1.6 million children are projected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition,” according to Marie-Pierre Poirier, Regional Director of UNICEF.

“We’ve seen hunger jump by almost a third in West Africa—to the highest levels in the best part of a decade—and the areas of most concern are the Central Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin,” said Chris Nikoi, Regional Director of the UN World Food Program (WFP) in West Africa. “Soaring food prices are also pushing a basic meal beyond the reach of millions of poor families,” he said.

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## Kenya Agrees To Defer Eviction of Refugee Camps until June 2022

Kenya has agreed to defer the eviction of two of the world’s largest refugee camps—Kakuma and Dadaab—until June 2022. This follows a flurry of diplomatic activity last month by human rights groups, including the

UN, which operates the camps, after the March 24 surprise announcement that the camps’ 400,000-plus residents, all refugees, would face imminent eviction “within two weeks,” according to sources at that time.

Both camps date from the early 1990s—Kakuma in northeast Kenya harbors victims of the internal upheavals of that era in Sudan and Ethiopia, and Dadaab is in eastern Kenya close to the border with Somalia. Kenya has stated that the decision to evict was based on security concerns, and is not related to Kenya’s ongoing diplomatic and territorial disputes with Somalia.

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## Mark Carney Backs His Little Green Carrot with a Big Stick in Africa

Mark Carney, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance, expanded on his green vision for Africa in a feeder session for the November COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. Sponsored by the Group of 30 financiers and South Africa’s Absa banking group, “The Road to COP26: Opportunities, Challenges and the African Transition to Net-Zero” was held virtually April 22, with four global financial representatives, led by Carney (former Governor of the Bank of England), tripping over each other on their way to the elusive carbon offset jackpot.

Carney has one carrot for Africa: the carbon offset fund. This is being sold to Africa as the way for Africa to get even for the years of imperial looting: by receiving cash for committing to not use their “natural resources” and instead to offer them as “collateral” for the carbon addicts of the developed world. This market, Carney fancied, “could grow to \$100 billion per annum,” and offsets are going to be key

to “directing” that capital flow, the banker said, meaning, those countries which agree to cut their development the most, and the fastest, will get the cash. Ultimately, Carney speculated, Africa could look forward to “\$3 trillion in new investment in the next decade, alone,” a statement for which he provided no evidence.

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## Blinken Tells Nigeria: To Win the Terrorism Fight, Stop Climate Change!

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a virtual “visit” to Kenya and Nigeria on April 27. In a post-tour press conference, the first topic raised by the Nigerian press was the terror threat, which the Radio Nigeria reporter characterized as three-pronged—from Boko Haram in the northeast, IPOB (the Indigenous People of Biafra) in the southeast and “bandits” in the northwest. In response to a request for U.S. assistance, Blinken demurred, saying it was more important to “see the big picture,” and deal with the “drivers” of instability, the primary cause of which he said was “Climate Change!” His excuse for this fraud was that climate change has created conflict for resources and “new migratory patterns” which cause conflict. This is why it was “so important to have President Buhari as well as President Kenyatta of Kenya take part in the climate summit that President Biden convened last week,” the Secretary said.

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## Blinken Extorts \$8 Billion Climate Cash from Kenya

Within days of the virtual “tour” of Kenya by Secretary of State Antony Blinken—in which the first item on Blinken’s agenda was to “build back

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better [by] creating quality, good-paying green jobs,” according to the State Department readout—Kenya announced an \$8 billion commitment for “climate change mitigation and adaptation” over the next 10 years, a commitment which amounts to \$750 million per year for the next 10 years.

The size of this commitment can be seen by comparison with Kenya’s allocation this year of \$1 billion to the entire health sector (the largest item in the budget) and \$890 million for university education. Meanwhile, the cash-starved (but not quite yet starving) country was forced to take out a loan from the IMF earlier this year.

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### **Shot Heard Around World: South Africa To Order Sinovac, Sputnik Vaccines**

On April 28, South Africa announced—even though the regulatory process has not been fully completed—that it “would be negotiating for an additional 10 million doses of Russia’s Sputnik V and China’s Sinovac vaccines.” Health Minister Zweli Mkhize told the press, “We are [making this announcement] now because we expect South African health product regulators to approve these vaccines.” The hard-hit country plans to begin its roll-out next week, with a goal of inoculating 16.5 million by the end of October.

Africa CDC Director John Nkengasong, at his weekly press conference in Addis Ababa on April 29, said “We are watching in total disbelief what is happening in India ... It is a wake-up call. We cannot be indifferent ... We must act now [to] prepare ourselves.” Nkengasong’s immediate concern is the overall vulnerability of the continent through lack of health infrastructure, most clearly seen in the case of vaccine distribution. Several countries (e.g., Malawi and Uganda) are at the point of either destroying thousands of unused vaccine doses or donating doses to neighboring countries before

they expire (e.g., DR Congo), due to the inability of their health system to deliver all of the vaccines internally.

The larger significance of South Africa’s decision was addressed by South African Cobus van Staden, co-founder of the China Africa Project, in his weekly newsletter, where he writes that South Africa’s choice “is a small indicator of how COVID is revealing a new world order,” one where rich democracies may be winning the domestic vaccination race, but at the price of losing long-term influence in the rest of the world.

“Western commentators have tended to focus on Chinese and Russian vaccine diplomacy as undue attempts to gather international influence, rather than focusing on what Western relative disinterest in the same kind of outreach reveals about itself, or the wider emerging global landscape,” van Staden wrote.

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### **Gen. Mahamat Idriss Déby Establishes New Cabinet in Chad**

After the potentially destabilizing shooting death of Chad President Idriss Déby on April 20—and the assumption of the presidency by his son, General Mahamat Idriss Déby—the Chad Transitional Military Council has formed what appears to be a national unity transitional government consisting of 40 ministers, according to a statement by the council’s press service. It is headed by Prime Minister Albert Bahimi Badaki, and includes many of the members of the cabinet of the late president.

A new National Reconciliation Ministry was also created, which will be headed by former rebel chief and former Foreign Minister of Chad Acheick Ibn Oumar, who spoke in Paris at a 2015 Schiller Institute conference about the Transaqua plan to refill Lake Chad.

Chad’s opposition leader Saleh Kebzabo said, as quoted by *Al Jazeera* on

May 2, that he “recognized” the transitional government. Two members of his party were named to the new cabinet.

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### **China in Africa: The Truly Great Reset**

In an April 7 discussion on Zoom, sponsored by Development Reimagined (the “first-ever Kenyan wholly foreign-owned enterprise in China”), founder-host Hannah Ryder noted Africa’s population growth meant that Africa would have 15 million new, employable youth becoming available every year for expansion. Another participant, Siddarth Chatterjee, the UN’s Resident Coordinator in China, characterized today’s African development as the New Marshall Plan. As a Kenyan who had ridden on Kenya’s China-built standard-gauge railway, he spoke about the experience as one who had walked on the Moon! The Africa-China relationship goes back centuries, he said, and the world benefits from the result.

In response to a question from *EIR* about the apparent collapse of China’s financing in Africa, Tang Xiaoyang, Deputy Director at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, said China is indeed concerned about this topic, but from the standpoint that the increased payment loads were sapping money from necessary social programs. Also, he said, the picture on the ground is changing: Whereas early on, large expenses were made in worker training, that is no longer needed. China is not losing interest in Africa, Tang said, it’s thinking of the effects of its projects, and so its involvement is taking new forms.

The fourth participant, Won Kidane, from the Seattle University School of Law, took time to demolish the western “China Debt Trap” line, saying that the charge that China is planning on taking control of bankrupt countries’ infrastructure “is just not true.”