

AFRICA'S LARGEST COUNTRIES (AFRILAC)

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Over half of Sub-Saharan Africa's (SSA) billion people live in its six largest countries: Nigeria, Ethiopia, DR Congo, South Africa, Tanzania, and Kenya. The 14 largest countries –those with 2015 population of 20 million or more – comprise over 74% of SSA's total population. In addition to the six largest countries, these include, in 2016 population size order: Uganda, Sudan, Ghana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, and Angola.

This ongoing report, with support from CAS' Title VI funding, focuses on comparative and individual analyses of conditions, trends, and issues in those fourteen largest countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Following are brief summaries of several of those topics.

The 14 largest countries in sub-Saharan Africa include over 740 million people in total, ranging in population size from Nigeria with an estimated 2016 population of over 180 million to Angola with slightly over 20 million. With the exception of South Africa, the rates of growth of these (and many other countries in SSA) are among the highest in the world. Nine of

these countries have current growth rates between 2.4% and 2.9% per year. Uganda has the highest growth rate, estimated at 3.2% per year, while South Africa's is exceptionally low at 1.0% per year. By 2040, the total population of these 14 countries is projected to increase about 70% to over 1.2 billion (population data based on US Census International Database).

With the exception of South Africa, electricity supply is extremely low in all of these countries compared to most of the world's other developing countries, both in aggregate and per capita supply and consumption. This is a major impediment to economic development and quality of life in both urban and rural areas. South Africa differs dramatically from the other countries. Total electricity consumption in South Africa in 2013 was over 327 TWh, which is more than three times the total for all 11 of the other countries (data for Madagascar and Uganda were not available). Even more dramatically, per capita electricity in South Africa is more than 20 times higher than the average for the other countries (almost 4,450 kWh per year vs about 200 kWh per year respectively). Related to this as well as to differences in the availability of transport, South Africa's carbon emissions from fossil fuel use were over 2.7 times as high as total emissions for the other 11 countries (2011-13 annual averages).

Four of these countries have current leaders who by 2016 have individually been in office for 27 to 37 years. In addition to these, the same party or faction has been in power for 40-55 years in three of the countries, even though there have been a succession of individual leaders, some of whom have been popularly elected. Parties in two other countries have been in power for 22 and 25 years. Recent changes of leadership and parties in power have taken place only in five of the countries. Overall, individual leaders have been in power for an average of 12 years across the 14 countries, and the same parties or groups have been in power for an average of 24 years. Violent

internal conflicts are continuing in three of the countries – DR Congo, Nigeria, and Sudan – and at least one, Ethiopia – may be on the threshold of major internal unrest. Successions to the four longest serving leaders, and some of the others, may eventually also result in unrest.

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