



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AT A GLANCE

2021
OCT



One Planet

Global challenges need global solutions.



Ongoing Pandemic

The path to a COVID-19 free world lies through Africa.



Emerging Climate Crisis

Global efforts to reduce emissions cannot succeed without Africa, home to the world's second largest forest and with unmatched renewable energy potential.



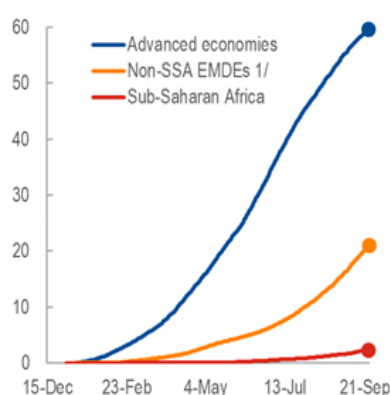
Two Worlds

The region's rebound is most welcome but remains modest by global standards.

The region is set to grow by **3.7 percent in 2021**, which is lower than the rest of the world.

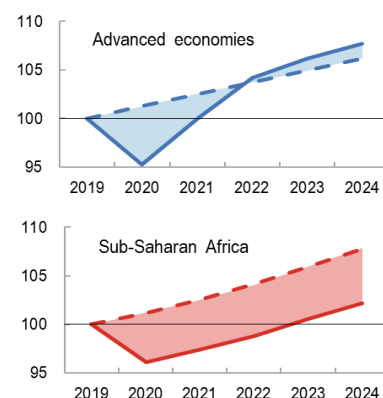
The region's slow recovery reflects **differences in policy space** and **slower vaccine rollout**.

Selected Economies:
Fully Vaccinated Persons, 2021
(Percent of population)



Sources: Our World in Data, and IMF staff calculations.
1/ Excludes China.

Advanced economies back to precrisis per capita GDP path by 2023, SSA per capita GDP 5.6% lower



Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook.



Three Stories

Looking at the anatomy of the crisis, three stories emerge for policymakers.

1

Widening divergence across the region

Inequality worsened

in **39** out of 45 countries.

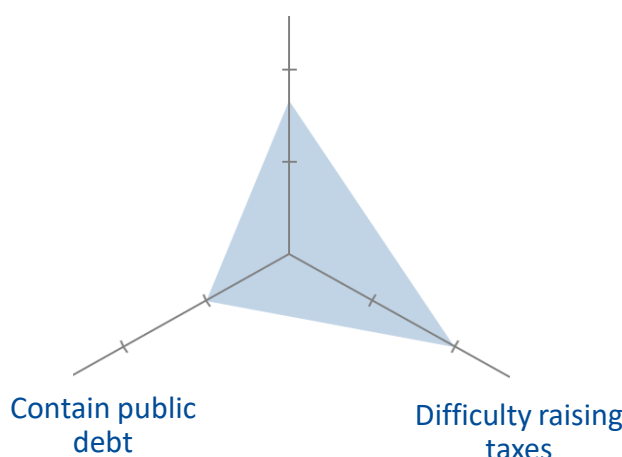
Women, young people, and the poor have been disproportionately affected by the crisis.



2

Policymakers are constrained by:

Higher spending requirement



3

International support is critical



Urgently needed vaccines

\$425 billion



additional external funding to

- respond to COVID-19,
- rebuild external buffers, and
- accelerate convergence to advanced economies, including enhancing **climate resilience** and promoting **digitalization**.

This points to the urgent need for spending prioritization, revenue mobilization, enhanced credibility (governance and macro-frameworks), an improved business climate, and external financing.