

LE MONDE AFRIQUE

World Bank Raises Sub-Saharan Africa Growth Forecast to 4.3% for 2026

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The World Bank has revised upward its growth forecast for Sub-Saharan Africa, lifting its 2026 projection from 4.1% to 4.3%. The revision signals that African economies are proving more resilient than anticipated in the face of turbulence emanating from the Middle East, according to reporting by Le Monde Afrique. The upgrade is notable in the context of a global environment marked by geopolitical uncertainty and volatile commodity markets.

The World Bank's updated outlook specifically singles out oil-exporting nations and commodity exporters as the primary drivers of this outperformance. These economies are benefiting from sustained demand for raw materials and hydrocarbons, reinforcing the structural importance of the extractive sector to regional growth dynamics. While the article does not name specific countries, the pattern is consistent with the outsized contribution that petroleum-producing states make to Sub-Saharan Africa's aggregate economic output.

For international investors and service providers operating across the region, the forecast upgrade carries practical implications. A stronger macroeconomic backdrop generally supports government revenue, fiscal capacity for infrastructure spending, and the appetite of national oil companies and independent operators to advance upstream development programs. When commodity revenues hold up, project timelines are less likely to slip and licensing activity tends to remain active.

The resilience of African oil and commodity exporters despite Middle Eastern instability also suggests that supply disruptions elsewhere in the world may be

indirectly supporting price levels that keep Sub-Saharan African projects commercially viable. Higher or stable hydrocarbon revenues reduce the risk of budget-driven project deferrals — a recurring concern in frontier and emerging upstream markets across the continent.

For Norwegian energy service companies tracking activity in Sub-Saharan Africa, the World Bank's revised forecast is a useful macro signal. It suggests that the investment climate in the region's commodity-exporting economies is holding firm into 2026, maintaining the conditions under which upstream capex decisions are made. Companies monitoring tendering pipelines in West and East African producer states should treat this revision as a modest positive indicator for near-term contract activity, even as project-level decisions will always depend on operator-specific economics and regulatory conditions.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The upward growth revision driven by oil and commodity exporters reinforces the case for Norwegian service companies to maintain active business development in Sub-Saharan Africa's producer states rather than pulling back in response to global uncertainty. Improved fiscal conditions in hydrocarbon-exporting economies support upstream spending and increase the likelihood that delayed or pipeline projects move toward final investment decisions. Companies should use this macro signal to prioritise relationship-building with NOCs and operators in key producer markets ahead of anticipated tendering activity in 2025–2026.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Stronger government revenues in oil-exporting states improve the fiscal runway for national oil companies to sustain or accelerate drilling campaigns — worth monitoring for rig demand signals.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Resilient commodity revenues reduce the risk of project deferrals in deepwater producer states, keeping FPSO and subsea procurement timelines more predictable for Norwegian suppliers.

- **LNG:** Positive growth momentum in commodity-exporting economies supports the investment climate for LNG development projects that depend on stable government backing and offtake frameworks.
- **Pipeline:** Improved fiscal capacity in producer states can unlock long-delayed pipeline and export infrastructure investments that require sovereign co-financing or guarantees.
- **Service:** A broadly stronger Sub-Saharan African growth outlook justifies maintaining or expanding in-region presence and local-content compliance investments ahead of the next capex cycle.

[Original source: Le Monde Afrique →](#)

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