



### Editor's Note, November 12, 2021

Sudan on Thursday unveiled a new governing council, with General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan - the leader of a military coup on October 25 that dissolved a power sharing arrangement between the military and civilian politicians - appointing himself as chairman.

The council, which excludes the main body pushing for civilian rule, consolidates the military's control over Sudan's fraught transition following the ousting of longtime ruler dictator Omar al-Bashir in 2019. Already bogged down before October 25th's military takeover, the country's political process is facing an uncertain future.

The same is true for Sudan's economy, which is at risk of being side-lined amid the current turmoil.

That would be dangerous.

The economy has been unravelling since South Sudan seceded in 2011, taking most of the country's oil reserves with it, stripping the government of cheap cash and exposing decades of mismanagement.

Soaring inflation, unemployment, and shortages of basic goods, were among the main catalysts behind the mass protests that resulted in the removal of Bahir in 2019. Things came to a head in 2019, with soaring inflation and a collapsing currency catalysing mass protests that ended his rule.

Restoring stability and driving an economic recovery were stated priorities of the now dissolved transitional government.

Progress needed to be swift, and It scored some wins in [securing debt relief and re-engaging](#) with international donors, [but these steps fall short](#) of the structural reform Sudan's economy needs to undo decades of oil-dependency and a lack of diversification. Inflation, while down, stood at 387.56% in August, with IMF-backed austerity measures having actually added to many people's hardship.

Whatever progress was made up to October 25 is unravelling, with the World Bank and U.S. already halting planned aid flows to Khartoum.

Getting this process back on track is imperative if Sudan is to address the underlying economic factors of its unstable politics. Amid the current upheaval, it might be hard to find the time.

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## This week's Picks

### From The Continent

**MFS Africa, a London-based digital payments provider, has raised \$100m, the latest high profile funding round in the continent's booming fintech space.** The company plans to use the money to expand its operations, and to invest in other African tech startups. **More:** [TechCrunch](#)

**Moderna Inc is offering its Coronavirus vaccines to the African Union for \$7 per dose, half the price paid by the U.S. earlier this year, as part of broader efforts to make the shots more accessible in developing countries.** It's estimated that just 6% of the eligible population in Africa has been fully vaccinated to date. **More:** [Reuters](#)

### THE WEEKLY STAT

26

**The number of artworks, looted by France during colonialism, returned to Benin by the Quai Branly Museum in Paris this week. More: [Africanews](#)**

## The Global Perspective

**France is hosting an international conference on Libya today, aimed at pushing for delayed elections in the oil-rich country by the end of the year, and efforts to remove foreign forces.** The country has struggled with stability since the demise of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. **More: [Reuters](#)**

**The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization has warned that the global food import bill will hit an all-time high of \$1.75tr in 2021, a 14% increase from the previous year, posing a significant burden for people in low-income countries.**

This comes amid rising hunger across Africa, and a soaring food import bill estimated at at least \$55bn annually. **More: [Reliefweb](#)**