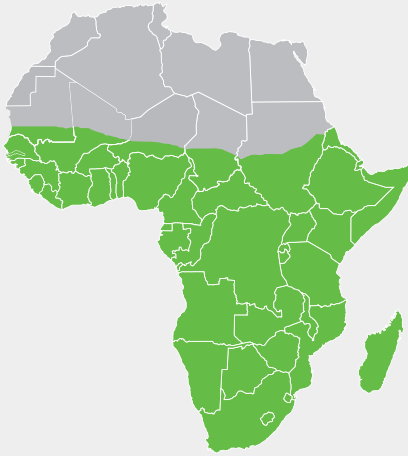
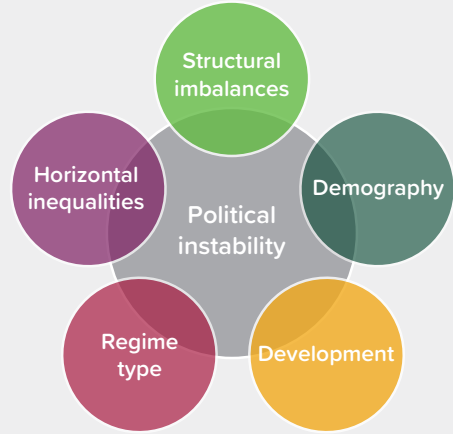


Sub-Saharan Africa faces many structural pressures that increase the risk of political instability and violent conflict.



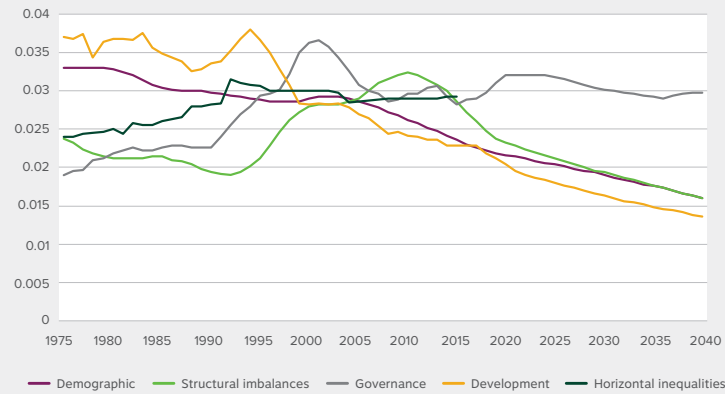
States are vulnerable for multiple reasons, and there is no unified set of drivers of instability.

Five dimensions of structural pressure that increase the risk of political instability



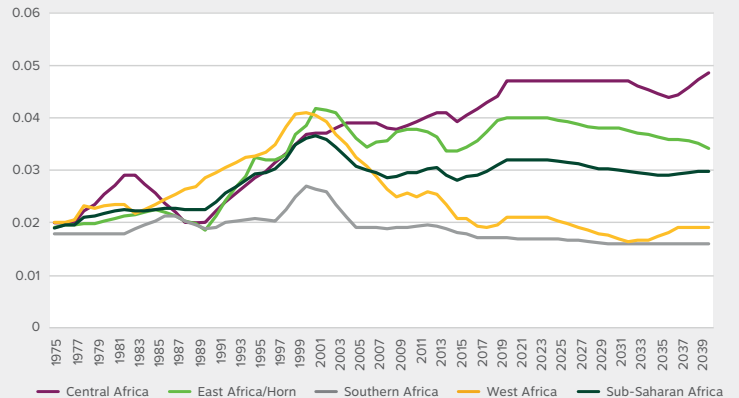
Sub-Saharan Africa's tendency towards political instability has declined.

Average probability for the onset of political instability across different models for sub-Saharan Africa, historical and forecast



Risk from low levels of development has also eased and is projected to reduce more in line with better socio-economic performance.

Average probability of onset instability driven by levels of development for regions in sub-Saharan Africa, historical and forecast



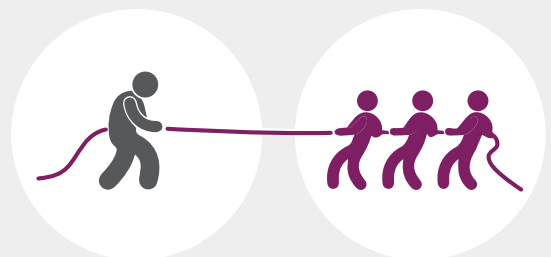
The region's age structure does not promote stability. However, demographic risk has been reducing steadily and will decrease further to 2040.

Current median age of all countries in sub-Saharan Africa

(except Mauritius and the Seychelles)

below
26.3
years

Horizontal inequalities and state-led discrimination between groups are likely to continue to fuel grievances and instability.



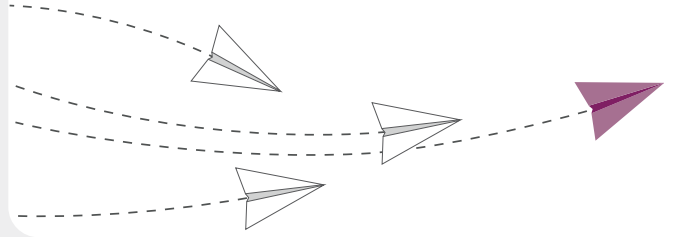
Recommendation

Democracies with atypically high levels of poverty appear to be particularly vulnerable too.

Poor democracies are more vulnerable to political instability than any type of autocratic regime.

Recommendation

Policymakers should adopt a multi-dimensional and dynamic understanding of risk as there are multiple paths to instability.



Recommendation

Understanding the distribution and evolution of structural pressures over long time horizons can provide policymakers with a more nuanced and dynamic understanding of risk.



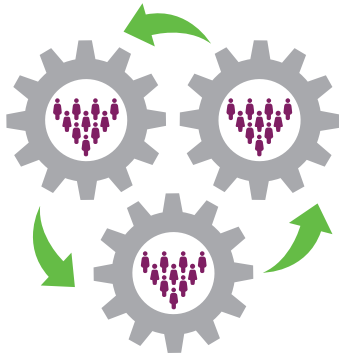
Recommendation

Governments and their partners should support efforts to generate better data. This includes data pertaining to both the national and subnational level.



Recommendation

Governments and their partners should foster institutional form and decision-making processes that expand inclusion across identity groups.



Recommendation

The United Nations needs to maintain the renewed momentum for the multilateral conflict prevention agenda.



See publications at: www.politicalsettlements.org/publications-database

In particular Bello Schünemann, J., & Moyer, J. D. (2018). *Structural pressures and political instability Trajectories for sub-Saharan Africa* (ISS PSRP report). Institute for Security Studies.

www.politicalsettlements.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018_ISS_Bello-Schuenemann-Moyer_structural-pressure-and-political-instability.pdf