

## Kenia: 2023 KCSE exam results worrying

The 2023 school-leaving results, the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) are a cause for concern. "As a country, we need to start scrutinising data and evidence to make critical decisions that will ensure that all the resources the government is putting into the education sector are actually paying off," said Ezekiel Machogu. Over 40,000 children (5.33%) had achieved the lowest average grade E. 15.01.2024

## Nigeria: Shell closes almost 100-year-old plant

The increasing problems of the British oil company Shell with pipeline sabotage, legal proceedings and environmental damage against its subsidiary Shell Nigeria could be some of the reasons why the company is ending its almost one hundred years of activity in the Nigerian onshore oil and gas sector. The company has agreed to sell its subsidiary Shell Nigeria for up to 2.4 billion US dollars to a consortium of five mainly local companies. The British energy giant has been a pioneer in the Nigerian oil and gas business since the 1930s.

## Least reported crises in 2023

CARE International provides information on the ten least reported humanitarian crises of 2023. The list includes: **Angola** (landmines and hunger), **Zambia** (drought and floods), **Burundi** (refugees and hunger), **Senegal** (heat brings hunger), **Mauritania** (drought, floods and instability), **Central African Republic** (violence and poverty), **Cameroon** (climate crisis and conflict), **Burkina Faso** (violence and displacement), **Uganda** (poverty and climate change), **Zimbabwe** (hunger and disease). CARE concluded: "From the conflict in Angola to climate change in Zimbabwe, each entry in this report represents countless human tragedies unfolding in the shadows of the world's public eye". 17.01.2024

## Botswana: Diamond discovery 166 carats

Lucara Diamond Corporation has found a 166-carat diamond in the Karowe diamond mine. The diamond is the 328th stone over 100 carats found since 2012. The mine operator emphasises that this is the economic rationale for investing in the underground expansion project, which will extend the life of the mine until 2040.

## Burundi closes border to Rwanda

Following Burundian President E. Ndayishimiye's accusation two weeks ago that Rwanda was behind an attack in southern Burundi in which civilians were allegedly killed by Red Taraba militants, the border between the two countries has now been closed. Rwanda has denied any involvement in the attack or links to the militants, who are based in the volatile eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. 16.01.2024

## Congo DRC: The Congo River has risen over 6 m

Floods have caused chaos in Kinshasa: Water entered houses and residents had to canoe along the flooded streets. Floods happen all the time, but this year the Congo River has risen above 6.26 metres, reaching the level of the record flood of 1961. The overflowing Congo River, which crosses a large part of the country, has also flooded places outside the capital. According to official figures, more than 300 people have died in floods in recent months. The river also caused flooding and chaos in Congo-Brazzaville. 16.01.2024

## Tanzania: Harvest labourers from Africa

Following the Hamas attack on Israel, the murder of 39 Thais and the hostage-taking of others, thousands of Asian harvest workers have fled Israel. Now the country is recruiting farm labourers from Africa, where "the need is greater than the fear of war". Hundreds of thousands of well-educated university graduates cannot find a job. Israel is taking action. Kenya wants to send 1500 labour migrants; Malawi has already sent 220; negotiations are also underway with Tanzania. The recruitment of labour from Africa is increasingly being criticised. 15.01.2024

## Cape Verde: Malaria-free

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the West African archipelago of Cape Verde, consisting of nine islands, to be malaria-free. Cape Verde is only the third country in Africa, after Mauritius and Algeria, to achieve elimination status for the disease. According to WHO figures, Africa accounts for a high share of malaria worldwide: 94% of malaria cases (233 million people) and 95% (580,000) of malaria deaths. 15.01.2024

## Senegal: Electric buses

"Sunday 14 January will go down in our history as a day on which we took another step towards a modern Senegal," said President Macky Sall. He inaugurated the e-bus fleet (120 vehicles) of Dakar's public transport network. They are powered by solar energy. The transport company (**Bus-Rapid-Transit**) will connect 14 municipalities in **Dakar** from north to south. The large-capacity buses (approx. 150 seats) will transport around 300,000 passengers a day. 15.01.2024

## "Powerful passports"

Henley & Partners published the ranking of the most powerful passports in the world for 2024, based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), reflecting the strength of passports through visa-free access to countries. Four EU member states: France, Germany, Italy and Spain, along with Japan and Singapore have the best performing passports in the world, allowing their citizens to visit 194 out of 227 destinations around the globe without a visa. South Korea, together with Finland and Sweden, is in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 193 visa-free destinations, while Austria, Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands share 3<sup>rd</sup> with access to 192 destinations. The 1<sup>st</sup> African country is in 26<sup>th</sup> place: the Seychelles. The 10 most powerful passports in Africa are: **Seychelles** (156 destinations), **Mauritius** (150), **South Africa** (108), **Botswana** (91), **Lesotho** and **Namibia** (80), **eSwatini** (78), **Kenya** and **Malawi** (76) and **Tanzania** (73). 15.01.2024

## Nigeria: Elephant tusks destroyed

The government has destroyed a stockpile of confiscated elephant tusks worth 11 million dollars and weighing almost 2.5 tonnes. They were smuggled from various African countries; some were carved into works of art. Every year, tens of thousands of elephants are killed worldwide for their tusks. A recent report estimates that there are fewer than 500,000 elephants in Africa, down from more than 1.3 million in the 1970s. There are only 400 left in Nigeria. 15.01.2024

## More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

Mauritius: Cyclone "Belal" moves over island  
Comoros: 4th in office for President Azali Assoumani