

Africa's exposure to the Middle East war — Countries' vulnerabilities and policy responses

Summary from the 20th Amplifying Africa's Voices (AAV) dialogue, 28 April 2026 – [the information and data points contained in this table reflect the AAV dialogue, and do not necessarily represent official data]

Country (Institute)	Oil & gas / fertilizers	Inflation / cost of living	Trade & external	Financing & macro	Policy response
Botswana <i>BIDPA</i>	Price pressures alleviated by reduction in fuel levy	Headline inflation 4.0% (Mar) → 4.2% (Apr); pass-through minimal	Weak global demand threatens tourism and services exports, diamond industry (high sensitivity)	Pressure from rising social protection and health claims	Temporary 6-month fuel levy cut
Kenya <i>KIPPRA</i>	Domestic price spike Apr 14, 2026: super petrol +10.8%, diesel +18.1% (between Mar & Apr)	Transport fares and utilities (water/electricity) up → broad-based inflationary pressure	Trade balance threatened: agri/horti exports and essential imports (fertilizers, petrochemicals)	Conflict >3 months: structural damage to growth, revenues and job-creating investments	VAT on petroleum cut 16% → 13% and further reduced thereafter; kerosene prices stabilized for vulnerable households (overall prices still rising)
Nigeria <i>VERRAKI & NESG</i>	Petrol +58% since Feb; aviation fuel +300%; aviation near-collapse in Apr; emergency threats to ground all flights	Headline inflation 15.38% (Mar); food inflation 12.21% (Feb) → 14.31% (Mar); transport fares in Abuja +300%; agri/industrial expenses up, forcing reliance on costly generators	Both crude oil producer & importer (because not enough production for refinery)	Revenue loss from duty cuts to be offset by new taxes on tobacco, alcohol and sugary drinks (Jul)	April Fiscal Policy: import duties cut on 127 items (food, transport, industrial machinery); exchange rate fixed 6 months for food/manufacturing imports; jet fuel capped; 30% debt relief + 30-day credit for aviation
Sierra Leone <i>The IGC</i>	Regulatory agency priced petroleum products +25–35% by late Apr; fuel scarcity & rationing at stations	Prices rose 8% (Feb) → over 10% (Mar) with bi-weekly price adjustments by committee; shortage of commodities	Domestic supply chains and production distorted; shipping costs up; potential weakening of peace efforts	Development financing flows risk diversion to military spending; 70% of revenue already absorbed by wages and debt service	Fuel subsidy (1 Leone/L) in April; response slowed by fiscal constraints (Finance Act 2026) and pending IMF assessment
South Africa <i>SPI & ISS Africa</i>	Fuel sat 3 rand/L petrol, 7 rand/L diesel (Mar); fertilizer spikes (35% of input costs); high gas prices tighten fertilizer supply → structural threat to agricultural profitability and food security	Logistics and transport costs rising rapidly across the value chain	Hormuz closure stranded 167 containers (immediate -50% sector revenue); rising shipping & insurance → regional trade instability; but rerouting opportunity through the Cape ports	Reserve Bank rates unchanged; conflict beyond May 2026 will trigger inflation target and rate revisions (agri input costs)	Oil sourcing diversified toward Nigeria to cut Middle East dependence
Tanzania <i>REPOA</i>	Fuel +33% (between Mar & Apr); 59% of fuel imports from Middle East; fertilizers +25% and market shortages during planting season	Energy, fuel & utilities = 25% of consumer basket	Import price rises: machinery (+10–33%), industrial inputs (+8%), 3-week shipment delay; freight and insurance threaten food distribution and agri productivity	Migrant employment disruptions threaten USD 800m annual remittances (0.5% GDP); 0.5% GDP decline already; conflict beyond May could trigger 3% contraction	Muted response: budget deficits leave officials unable to cushion inflation; hoping for swift end
Tunisia <i>GI4T</i>	Resilient so far: stable retail fuel prices and uninterrupted supply chains	Tourism and inflation currently stable	Vulnerabilities concentrated in energy, food and fertilizer prices (open economy, high fossil fuel reliance)	Regional uncertainty threatens private capital deployment and investments	May raise subsidies to contain inflation; window of opportunity for structural reforms, renewable energy projects and tailored IMF stabilization program

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Zambia <small>ZIPAR</small>	100% fuel-import-dependent: diesel +28%, jet fuel +50% (late Mar); drought has crippled hydroelectricity → shift from hydroelectric power to oil-based power transmits shocks directly to the grid	Inflation currently within target	Fuel costs spike mining expenses (70% of FX earnings); copper prices expected to be affected; imported fertilizer inputs threaten the 2026-2027 agri season and 60% of the population's livelihoods	Recovering from 5-year debt crisis & 38-month IMF program with 3-month expansion; prolonged conflict risks pulling growth below the 5.8% 2026 projection	3-month emergency package (Apr-Jun 2026): duties on petrol and diesel suspended, VAT zero-rated on petroleum products