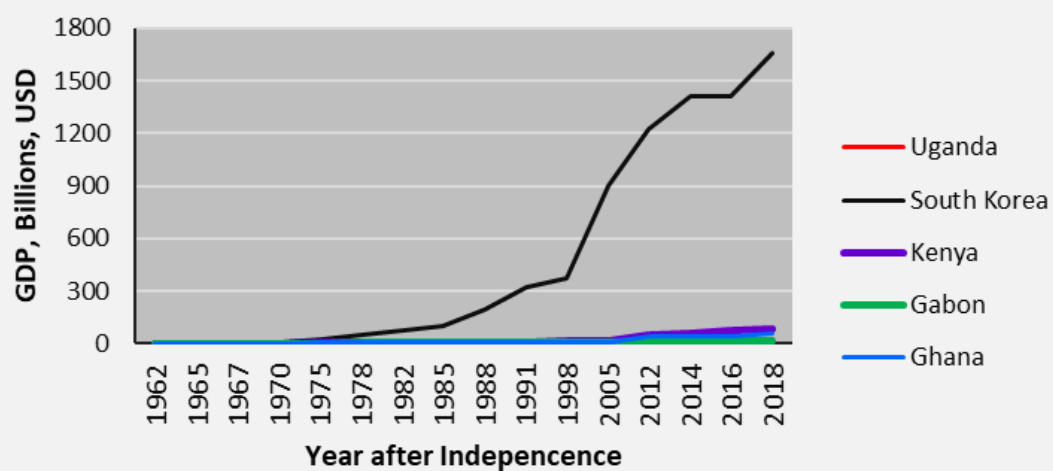


Making a brighter sub-Saharan Africa Achievable and Unstoppable



Credit: Kazinga Tours

Fig 1. Sub-Saharan Countries have remained Poor & Underdeveloped for over 60 years



Although sub-Saharan countries have changed leadership a number of times since independence, although they have been producing an educated/skilled work force for many decades, although they have received financial and technical assistance for a long time, they have remained practically the same, namely poor and underdeveloped (Fig. 1). In other words, that although sub-Saharan economies have been growing most of the time since independence, they have not changed in real/meaningful terms. To understand this apparent contradiction, imagine a country's economy as food prepared to feed people on a wedding in an African rural setting. Because many people turn up on such a ceremony, food is prepared in a big-sized sauce pan, covered well, placed on three cooking stones and firewood lit under (Fig. 2). The food gets ready in a relatively short time and almost everyone gets served.

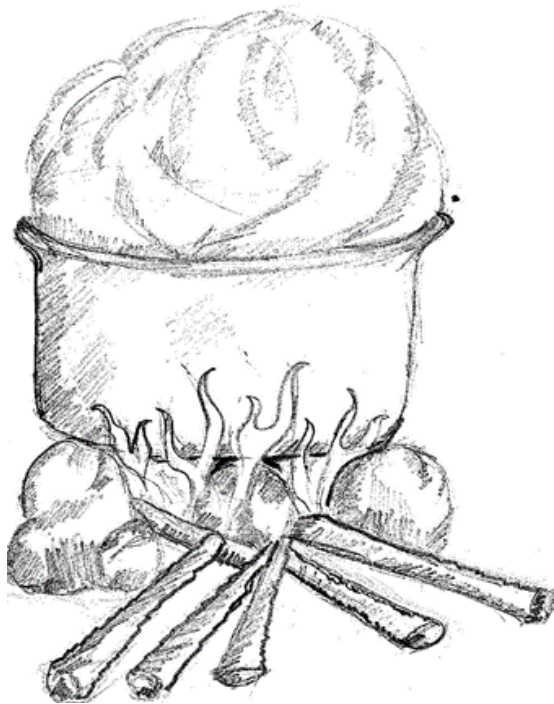


Fig 2. Cooking food standing on the cooking stones

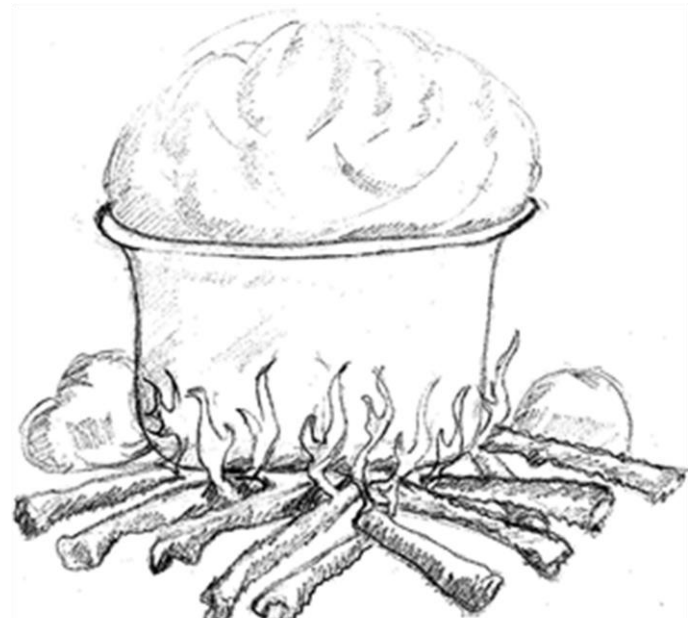


Fig 3. Cooking food sitting on the ground

If one cooking stone is removed before cooking however, the remaining two cooking stones will not support the food. It ends up sitting on the ground (Fig 3). In this position, the food can never get ready no matter how long you cook it; for the law of physics is such that cooking energy moves bottom-upwards and not horizontally-inwards. The best it can become are small portions of food, in the sides of the sauce pan touching fire, getting ready while the rest of the food stays uncooked! Very few people, if any, get served!

The second metaphor is a classic explanation of the contradiction in sub-Saharan economies. Food represents the country's economy, as already pointed out. Cooking fire symbolises the energies of the leadership and entire society expended in an attempt to move the country out of poverty and underdevelopment. The cooking stones symbolise the pillars that any society must stand on in order to move out of poverty and underdevelopment, namely (i) Knowledge (ii) Skills and (iii) the Right thinking for the country's development.

The missing cooking stone symbolises the missing pillar¹ of a sub-Saharan economy. In other words, the absence of the right thinking for the country's development makes it impossible to move a sub-Saharan country out of poverty and underdevelopment, in the same way the absence of one cooking stone makes it impossible to cook food and it gets ready (Fig 3). The resulting economic growth benefits a minority few, in the same way food cooked while sitting on the ground feeds a handful few at best. Until sub-Saharan societies acquire this pillar¹, their countries' economies will continue to grow without meaningful change (Fig 1) and as result, remain poor and underdeveloped. Let's join hands in making the education systems in sub-Saharan go beyond knowledge and skills, and equip learners with the right thinking for the country's development. Only then will a brighter sub-Saharan Africa become achievable and unstoppable.

Call to Action

Buy a slot to support universal access to our resources by learners, while at same time the same slot is documenting you for recognition by upcoming generations. The slots cost USD 10 or USD 35 and are available on this site, <https://www.education.africa/>.

¹ *The world that you and I grew up in prevents the African mind from growing the attitudes that are critical to development. For details, read prefaces in our books <https://www.education.africa/> The absence of these attitudes in the African mind-set denied you and me [and the rest of Africans] the right thinking for the country's development.*