Egypt’s economy will slow sharply in 2020 because of the impact of the coronavirus, but will avoid a recession, according to a forecast by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The latest edition of the EBRD Regional Economic Prospects report sees growth in Egypt in 2020 of 0.5%, compared with 3.6% in 2019. It predicts a rebound to 5.2% in 2021. (ebrd.com; africabusiness.com munities.com 13/5) Emergency situation p.229308

ETHIOPIA
A Million Jobs at Risk

The most direct economic impact of Covid-19 has been on transport, travel, and hospitality services.

Close to 1.4m workers in Ethiopia will be affected by the coronavirus pandemic, particularly in the service and manufacturing sectors, according to estimates by the country’s Jobs Creation Commission.

The most direct economic impact, so far, has been on the service sector, particularly transport, travel, and hospitality services, said Vice Governor and Chief Economist of the National Bank of Ethiopia, Fikadu Digafe Huriso.

The government is taking several measures including fiscal, monetary, and sectoral measures to flatten the curve and recover the impact of the disease.

On the recent support of US$ 411m secured from the International monetary Fund (IMF) as emergency funding for needs arising from Covid-19, the Vice Governor said the funds will support two broad areas: import of essential health supplies such as personal protective equipment (PPE), and intensive care equipment. He further said that the resources will also be used to ensure an adequate supply of essential goods such as food items – wheat and edible oil – to assist the vulnerable population.

“Although it will be challenging to implement large-scale social intervention to combat job losses and aid the informal sector, it is important to ensure that those in extreme poverty have access to basic items to survive,” Fikadu said.

Meanwhile, the United States (US) government has committed over $37m to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus in Ethiopia by strengthening clinical care, laboratory systems for large-scale testing, and public health screening, among others. (PANA 8/5)

Former Minister Jailed for Graft: Former communications minister Bereket Simon has been sentenced to six years in prison for corruption. He was also fined Birr 10,000. Bereket Simon, a war veteran, was a powerful figure in the government of the late prime minister Meles Zenawi. He was arrested in January 2019. (Fana Broadcasting Corporate 8/5)

FLOODING

Angola: News agency Angop reported that 11 people had died and 13 were missing after heavy rain and strong winds struck parts of Luanda Province on April 18th. The Cabembamba river broke its banks, flooding parts of Talaton municipality, damaging homes and displacing 113 families. Areas of Kilamba Kiaxi municipality were also badly affected. Angop also reported that at least 89 people had been displaced in Libolo municipality, Cuanza Sul province, following the collapse of 14 homes caused by heavy rains on April 20th. (floodlist.com 21/4)

Burkina Faso: The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that heavy rainfall in parts of Burkina Faso on April 19th led to localised flooding in the commune of Kongoussi, Centre-Nord region. Among those affected were internally displaced persons (IDP) settlements. OCHA said Kongoussi is host to nearly 21,000 IDPs. Local media said that many of those in the camps had been left without shelter after tents and material possessions were washed away. Some local observers said the settlements were located in a known flood zone. (floodlist.com 22/4)

Burundi: The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reports that over 10,000 people were displaced from their homes after heavy rain and floods in Muyinga, Ruuyigi and Rumonge provinces during the period April 27th to May 2nd. IOM added that, as of early May, 9,492 people were still displaced after the flooding in Mutimbuzi Commune, Bujumbura Rural. Flooding first struck the area on April 20th after the Ruzizi river and Lake Tanganyika overflowed. IOM said 2,373 homes were damaged or destroyed. Burundi’s Ministry of Security has distributed relief supplies, including food, to affected areas. (floodlist.com 14/5)

Djibouti: Djibouti city and surrounding areas were badly affected after flash flooding struck on April 21st after heavy overnight rain. Initial estimates indicated that some 18,000 households (approximately 110,000 persons) were affected across the city and its suburb of Balbala. Eight people died when a house was washed away by the floodwater. Heavy rains also occurred in other areas of the country, causing some damage. (floodlist.com 22/4)

DR Congo: Strong winds and heavy rain combined to cause Lake Albert to overflow in Ituri province on May 2nd. Local media said flooding damaged or destroyed around 100 homes in Djugu Territory (northeast). Hundreds of people have been displaced. Several people, including children, were rescued from flood water. (floodlist.com 5/5)

Ethiopia: In the remaining months of 2020 thousands are feared to be potential targets of flash floods, with 110,000 victims already displaced. Damen Darj, commissioner of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) said on May 6th that in April alone, flooding and landslides had affected many households. Some 220,000 people living in the Southern, Somali and Afar regions and in Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa authorities are on high alert for fresh floods in the coming weeks. Debebe said to withstand the impact, NDRMC had prepared food and non-food items and shelters to assist victims. (The Reporter 9/5)

As many as 12 people are thought to have died in a landslide triggered by heavy rain in Ale Special Woreda in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regions (SNNP). Six houses were completely destroyed and several families displaced. Seven bodies had been found, with five still missing. Search operations were continuing but were hindered by unstable terrain. (floodlist.com 10/5)

Kenya: At least 237 people have lost their lives due to floods across the country, Devolution Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa said on May 13th. He appealed to people living in flood-prone areas to relocate because more rains were expected in May and June. He noted that water levels in Lake Naivasha had risen to unprecedented levels, affecting nearly 18,000 people who live in the sprawling Kihoto estate. Wamalwa promised humanitarian assistance to the affected families and government support.

According to the Kenya Red Cross Society, some 25,000 households...