



[Facing Chinese competition, Europe struggles to hold its position in Africa](#)

With the French being chased out of Niger and Mali and Russian and Chinese influence growing, the European Union is struggling to maintain its presence on the African continent. Experts say that Brussels must rewrite its Africa policy if it wants to hold on to its clout. Over the past 10 years, Chinese development funds have played an "absolutely essential role" in helping a number of African countries close the gaping infrastructure gap, says Eric Olander, editor of the China-Global South Project (CGSP), which tracks Chinese investment in Africa and other developing parts of the world. China and its multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative loans were often the only option for African countries, Olander says, as multilateral funders like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund turned off the tap or attached conditions that African governments were unwilling to meet, such as making improvements in human rights or governance. RFI.

[Mandarin gains rising popularity in Africa](#)

The friendship between China and Africa is set to grow deeper as Mandarin continues to gain popularity across the continent, enhancing people-to-people relationships. Many African countries in recent years have incorporated the language into their school curricula, and the number of Confucius Institutes has increased across the continent. To promote closer collaborations and the best practices in Chinese language instruction and culture, the Chinese International Education Foundation and the Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi organized the inaugural joint conference of Confucius Institutes in Africa from Thursday to Saturday. Aurelia Rono, principal secretary for Kenya's State Department for Parliamentary Affairs, said the conference was significant, happening in an era of increased global integration of economies and cultures. She said China, with its rich history and unique development model rooted in its culture, has been a profound source of inspiration for Africa. China Daily.

[Can Gulf investors outstrip China in Africa as UAE expands reach?](#)

As the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other GCC states boost investments in Africa, Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative could face serious challenges. In a major shift, the African investment landscape has been hit by an onslaught of Gulf investors slowly wresting space from Chinese stakeholders. With China having been in the lead as Africa's biggest investor for at least two decades — with investments in 2023 hitting nearly \$11 billion — such large-scale competition could disrupt the standing of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched there in 2013. According to a May 18 report by the Economist Group's research and analysis division, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states — especially Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar — have exponentially expanded their footprint across the African continent in recent years. Placing their bets on Africa, the GCC states have invested at least \$100 billion over the

last 10 years, representing around 30% of their total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), according to EIU research. Ai Monitor.

[Nigeria wins grand prize at Huawei ICT competition in China](#)

Nigerian undergraduate students achieved remarkable success at the recently concluded global Huawei ICT competition in China. Among over 170,000 students from 2,000 universities across 74 countries worldwide, the Nigerian network teams went home with two grand prizes and three first prizes at the global finals, considered one of the best performances by Nigeria at the competition. “2 of the 4 teams that won the Grand Prize were from Nigeria -the Nigeria Cloud Team 2, and Nigeria Computing Team. Also, three teams from Nigeria were part of the six teams that won First Prize: Kenya Network Team 1, Kenya Network Team 2, Nigeria Network Team 1, Nigeria Network Team 2, Uganda Network Team 2, and Nigeria Cloud Team 1,” according to Huawei. The Federal University of Minna (FUTMINNA), Niger state produced the two network teams which both won first place. Business Day Nigeria.

[Kenya set to receive food aid worth Ksh.370M from China](#)

The Government of the People’s Republic of China has dispatched food aid worth over Ksh.370 million to Kenya to assist families recently affected by floods. While announcing the support, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Chinese embassy in Nairobi Zhang Zhizhong, further disclosed that the Red Cross Society of China is donating 100,000 USD to Kenya as part of post-flood aid. “China reaffirms its unwavering solidarity and commitment to working closely with Kenya, striving to build an even closer China-Kenya community with a shared future in the new era,” he said. He said the consignment which includes tonnes of rice has already been shipped and will be arriving in the country sometime next month even as he expressed hope that Kenyans will benefit from a helping hand extended by Beijing. Zhang spoke Friday at an event where the Chinese Embassy donated Ksh. 5 million to Mathare’s Mcedo Beijing School to aid reconstruction following the devastating floods. KBC.

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