government’s keenness to boost cooperation and further the work of joint committees and the existing agreements between the two “brotherly” countries, Libya-focused, privately owned TV channels reported.

Dbeibah hailed the opening of opportunities in energy cooperation, including renewable energy, and emphasised cooperation in health.

Dbeibah and Draghi also discussed cooperation over illegal migration and combating human trafficking. (BBC Monitoring 1/6)

Morocco – Turkey: The two countries have agreed to boost their cooperation and ties in the fields of trade, investment and health.

The development was announced in an online meeting between Moroccan foreign minister Nasser Bourita and his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, 2M TV (9/6) reported.

The two officials agreed to set up a joint economic forum that will be dedicated to trade and investment, and which would be formed on the sidelines of the next meeting of the joint committee. (BBC Monitoring 9/6)

Nigeria – UK: Nigeria has received £4.2m ($5.9m) looted by a former governor, who was jailed in April 2012 for fraud amounting to nearly £50m (at the time $78.6m). Ibori was jailed in April 2012 for fraud amounting to nearly £50m (at the time $78.6m). The one-time cashier at a chain of British DIY vaccine hesitancy among the population, and undervaccinated health care systems, especially in non-urban areas.

Ziraba said African countries’ failure to vaccinate their population will disrupt progress, disrupt the continent during 2021, the outbreak has undone years of growth.

As of June 11th, confirmed cases of Covid-19 from 55 African countries reached 4,983,779 while over 28,179,798 vaccinations have been administered across the continent. Reported deaths in Africa reached 133,678 and 4,484,147 people have recovered. South Africa has the most reported cases – 1,722,086 – and 57,410 people died. Other most-affected countries are Morocco (522,765), Tunisia (273,678), Egypt (188,386) and Kenya (174,285). (VOA11/6; The Guardian 7/6) New wave warning p.23397A

Policy and Practice

ECONOMIC TRENDS

CORONAVIRUS

Slow Vaccination Rate

A third wave sweeps across Africa as vaccine imports dry up.

More than a year into the pandemic, most African countries have vaccinated only a tiny fraction of their populations. Health experts warn that failure to inoculate the 1.3bn people on the continent will have a huge impact on its health care systems and economies. “Our priority is clear – it’s crucial that we swiftly get vaccines into the arms of Africans at high risk of falling seriously ill and dying of Covid-19,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organisation (WHO) regional director for Africa.

Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, has fully vaccinated just 0.1% of its citizens. The Africa Centre for Disease Control says three countries – Tanzania, Burundi, Eritrea – and the self-declared Sahrawi Republic (SADR) have yet to receive any vaccines, while Burkina Faso has received 115,000 doses of the Astrazeneca vaccine but has not yet administered a single jab.

Abdalah Ziraba, an epidemiologist and the head of the health system at the African Population and Health Research Center in Nairobi, says the failure to inoculate is partly due to vaccine hesitancy among the population, and underdeveloped health care systems, especially in non-urban areas.

Rwanda and Togo each received about 100,000 Pfizer vaccine doses. In Zimbabwe, hundreds of people are being turned away from vaccination centres as the country’s supplies of China’s Sinovac vaccine appear to have run out. Infecions are also surging in Angola, Namibia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where 32 members of parliament and several aides to the president, Felix Tshisekedi, are among those who have died. There has been a resurgence of infection in Seychelles despite it being the most vaccinated country in Africa, possibly due to new variants and the relatively low efficacy of the Sinopharm vaccine.

Kenya has fully vaccinated just 13,000 people out of a population of 50m, although about 1m have received one dose of a vaccine.

Davji Atellah, the secretary-general of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists’ Union, calls for the government to allocate 1% of the country’s budget to purchase Covid-19 vaccines. Kenya’s western region has been witnessing high rates of coronavirus infections in recent weeks, and officials have warned they may have to impose a new lockdown to curb transmissions.

In neighbouring Uganda, the government recently reintroduced a strict lockdown to fight an increase in infections. The lockdown includes the shutting down of schools and religious activities, and imposing travel bans within the country.

Ziraba said African countries’ failure to vaccinate their population will disrupt progress, disrupt the continent during 2021, the outbreak has undone years of growth.