CHAPTER 8

Improving the Human Well-Being of All Africans

The importance of the leaves and fruit of human well-being in the African Tree of Organic Growth recognises the fact that integrated organic growth must prioritise the interests of the African people by creating equal economic opportunities, and generating social and cultural wealth and capital to a broad spectrum of the population in each country (Fig. 8.1).

Social wealth and capital on the macro level include human rights and duties, law and order, freedom of expression and access to quality health care and education. These factors are normally a direct consequence of good or

Fig. 8.1  The African Tree of Organic Growth

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K. Jonker, B. Robinson, China’s Impact on the African Renaissance, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-0179-7_8
bad governance and regulatory processes in place in a specific country. On the micro level, social wealth and capital refer to social cohesion and interaction, embracing diversity and human development and social justice. Social capital and wealth have direct and profound impacts on the organic growth of a nation as they form the base of human growth and development and represent the ‘glue’ that holds communities together. Human development seeks to enable people to lead full, productive and meaningful lives by raising their incomes and improving their standards of living, which include life expectancy, health, education, security and personal liberty and freedom of choice.

Cultural capital and wealth, on the other hand, builds positive self-esteem and cultural identity within communities. Culturally they contextualise all human development in the country by placing it in a historical and cultural context. The cultural landscape in Africa tells a story of underdevelopment, influences from colonisation, disregard of certain cultures and, in many countries, domination of one culture or race above the others.

There has been mixed progress with regard to social and human development in Africa. While poverty rates have been dropping, albeit at a slow pace, inequality remains high and is increasing in many countries. Probably one of the most important indexes, the Human Development Index, where the well-being of countries’ people are ranked according to health, education and income, ranks most African countries sadly right at the bottom.

No African country features in the category of 51 countries in the ‘Very High Human Development’ index; Mauritius features at 64, Algeria at 83 (China slots in at 90), Tunisia at 97 and Libya at 102 in the ‘High Human Development’ index; African countries feature more in the ‘Medium Human Development’ index with the powerhouses of Egypt at 111 and South Africa at 119; and African countries dominate the ‘Low Human Development’ index of 38 countries, with the lowest ranking 15 countries all being African nations (Human Development Report 2016: 198–199).

From a regional perspective, East and West Africa rank the worst in terms of human development, with North Africa having the most countries in the higher level of human development. Southern and Central Africa have a mixed bag of human development achievements, from low to high. Progress in human development also varies regionally, with higher levels of improvement achieved in North Africa and South Africa.

For the Baobab Tree to achieve its full growth potential, it has to sprout the leaves and fruit that cover not just a few twigs or branches, but the
entire canopy in rich foliage, absorbing the sunrays, energising it for the future. Africa’s renaissance has to benefit and improve the well-being of all its people, as this is paramount for a sustainable future envisioned by the African Union Agenda 2063, the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The metaphor of ‘treating the symptoms and not the cause’ is very apt when it comes to human development. Here is the all-important proviso: Fundamental to human development is the need for broad-based economic growth and diversification, suitable and accessible infrastructure, sound and effective government leadership and suitable policy implementation—these are the roots and trunk of the organic tree that facilitate long-term well-being when these fruits can be distributed for all to benefit. Failing which, human development efforts will be unsustainable and remain at the elementary stage of ‘handouts’—desperate attempts by the international community to avoid humanitarian crises so often seen in Africa.

Another metaphor, which is just as apt to this argument, is that in order to stimulate the production of more fruit, it is important to prune the nutrient-draining deadwood and dead leaves and flowers. These are the inefficiencies of the economic system, the misuse of resources, the corruption of power and the drain of the country’s resources and assets to increase the stupendous wealth of a few. When these problems are addressed, there will be a greater opportunity for the tree to produce more fruit for all.

8.1 Towards Improved Well-Being for Africa

While the Human Development Index is a useful benchmarking framework that ranks countries’ human development according to health, education and income, these are just some of the many attributes that contribute to the well-being of countries’ populations.

The World Happiness Report 2017 (Helliwell et al. 2017) commissioned by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network uses economic and some further interesting variables to measure happiness amongst people in different countries: GDP per capita in terms of Purchasing Power Parity; life expectancy at the time of birth; social support from relatives and friends; freedom of life choices; generosity in giving donations; perceptions of corruption; positive effect of laughter and enjoyment on the previous day; and the negative effect of worry, sadness and anger on the previous day.

A previous World happiness Report in 2015 illustrated the ‘geography of happiness’ in Map 8.1. Green reflects relative happiness, while red
Map 8.1 The geography of happiness. (Helliwell et al. 2015: 20)
reflects relatively low levels on the happiness index. The deeper the red, the less there is happiness. Africa starkly stands out as the red continent.

The World Happiness Report of 2017 (Helliwell et al. 2017) dedicated a chapter to determining the causes for the ‘happiness deficit’ in Africa. Correctly, they introduce the topic by describing the vast differences between the numerous countries in Africa and the ‘inequalities’ of happiness within countries themselves. However, they suggest that the greatest contributor to the happiness deficit is that “African people’s expectations that they and their countries would flourish under self-rule and democracy appear not to have been met” (Helliwell et al. 2017: 110).

In understanding the elements of this happiness deficit, the authors of the World Happiness Report of 2017 describe the contributors to this deficit in Africa (Table 8.1).

Table 8.1 Causes of the happiness deficit in Africa

| Element | Contribution |
|---------|--------------|
| Democracy | Democracy is weakly positively associated with happiness. The gap between preference for democracy and the satisfaction with its functioning depresses levels of happiness |
| Poverty | There is a strong negative relationship between happiness and poverty. Changes in reducing poverty over time increases levels of happiness |
| Infrastructure development and happiness | Infrastructure that results in access to electricity, roads, piped water, sewerage systems and cellular phone services increases happiness ratings. Lack thereof contributes to poverty, and, therefore, negatively impacts happiness |
| Corruption | Happiness improved significantly in countries where citizens saw a reduction of corruption by the country’s leadership, and citizens noticed an effort by the government to fight corruption |
| Youth | The increase in the relative proportion of youth in Africa will be a future challenge and will have an impact on happiness levels. The youth have certain expectations of employment and living standards. Failure of this happening will contribute to poverty, unrest and the growing migration problem, and, ultimately, negatively impact the happiness levels of this growing segment of the population |
| Drought and extreme weather conditions | Recession and drought have historically contributed to unrest, such as seen with the Arab Spring and Ethiopian protests. Drought conditions affect food production and increase food prices, ultimately fuelling discontent |

Helliwell et al. (2017: 92–107)
Poverty alleviation, access to food and water, healthy lives, good living standards, security through law and order, the pace and level of urbanisation, population growth, the youth, human rights and equality, especially gender equality, are all factors that influence the well-being of people.

If one considers the seminal work of Abraham Maslow where he developed the pyramid of hierarchy of needs, achieving the level of self-actualisation is an impossible task without elementary needs being met. Physiological needs: without having a roof over your head, food in the tummy, a bed to sleep in and clothes to wear, individuals cannot hope to enjoy a ‘normal’ life. Safety needs: war, high levels of crime and poor legal institutions create an environment of insecurity and fear. Esteem needs can never be achieved without human rights and equality. While self-actualisation may be a theoretical concept, the assumption it makes is correct: without these basic needs being met, individuals will never have the opportunity to progress towards self-fulfilment.

8.1.1 Poverty Alleviation

The ‘poverty trap’ is the bleak reality for many in Africa: Unemployed, poor people, living in often inhumane conditions. The trap refers to the inability of the poor to improve their well-being. There are many reasons for this: Lack of access, such as transport services, to employment; lack of educational facilities and skills transfer to provide opportunities for gainful employment; lack of government social security support for the poor; ineffective policies and corruption; and the list goes on.

Pro-poor growth is a term coined to describe socio-economic growth that enhances the opportunity for those living in poverty to benefit from such growth, and, in so doing, contribute to sustainable development themselves. Pro-poor policies and strategies include transfer payments, government employment programmes, participatory development, community self-help, social upliftment, rural agricultural reforms and providing infrastructure to ensure the poor also benefit from services and have access to the most basic of life’s essentials. Many infrastructure investments in Africa are motivated by the firm belief that they will lead to poverty alleviation and organic growth in the longer term. Amongst infrastructure, roads are considered one of the most critical in this process because they can have a significant and substantial impact on growth and poverty by providing access to jobs, services and markets.
8.1.2 Food Security

Food insecurity due to a wide range of phenomena, such as climatic conditions, natural disasters, climate change and the human factor of wars, conflict zones, overgrazing, deforestation and desertification, increases the vulnerability to famine in many parts of Africa.

There are certain short-term solutions to immediate crises, such as food and financial donations towards the purchase of food both by the relevant country’s government and from the international community.

Eradicating food insecurity requires a long-term solution. With Africa’s wealth of fertile land, reforms in the agricultural sector and modern farming methods not only hold the opportunity of reducing food insecurity and dependence on the international community for help, but the agricultural sector can be a pivotal asset as an economic growth sector.

In addition, many of the most food-insecure are small-scale subsistence farmers, extremely susceptible to shocks, such as drought or flooding, and who mostly do not have access to finance for investing in their farms or saving for the poor climatic seasons, do not have access to effective markets to sell their goods and generate income and do not have storage facilities, thus cannot store produce for long periods of time.

There are a number of policy options for governments. Landownership in many countries is contentious, with agrarian farming often being communal and property rights confusing. Land reform through privatisation or cooperatives could be considered. Subsidies and protection of local agricultural markets, marketing boards for particular products, microfinance, training in agricultural methods and modernising farming methods are some of the many policy considerations available to improve and support food security.

8.1.3 Health and Education Disparities

Health and education are marked by wide disparities in most African countries. The wealthy receive the best schooling and medical care, while many of the poor have to do without, or with sub-standard, services and education. Education is typically seen as a means of narrowing inequalities and concerted efforts have been made in the last two decades in many African countries to increase primary and secondary enrolments, with some success.
There were also significant improvements in the health conditions of the majority of African countries in the last four decades, yet life expectancy in most of Africa lags behind much of the world. While healthcare service provision has gradually improved in many countries, and life expectancy has increased, efforts to continually improve access to healthcare will always be a priority in human development. Interventions such as primary healthcare, access to care during pregnancy and child birth, access to health insurance, free provision of critical vaccinations and other life-saving interventions, and chronic and specialised healthcare provision all have the potential for addressing early mortality and life expectancy.

8.1.4 War, Law and Order

Living in conflict, fear of terrorism, kidnapping, vehicle hijacking, high crime levels, and physical and sexual abuse are some of the blights of the continent that are potential deterrents to achieving enjoyable productive lives.

National, regional and international interventions to prevent and manage conflict zones are of course critical. An effective, well-funded and efficient police sector, supported by legislation supporting law, order and human rights, access to the judiciary and fair and free treatment before the law are paramount for reducing crime and insecurity.

8.1.5 Living Standards

Standards of living are usually quantified on the Gross National Income per capita basis, where it is found that all African regions fail to achieve an acceptable standard of living. However, acceptable living standards cannot simply be quantified in dollars. It is difficult to put a valuation on having a decent home life. Consider having a home that is well positioned with a strong structure that can withstand wind and rain, and that is not in the path of wave surges, landslides and flooding rivers. Consider having clean drinking water, and water to bathe in and brush one’s teeth. Consider a house with electricity so that smelly and dangerous paraffin lamps and wood fires are not needed for lighting and cooking. Consider a hygienic toilet in or close to your home. Consider a paved road so you do not live in a dust bowl. Consider rubbish removal to keep you home and neighbourhood clean.
These may seem like very simple examples, but the reality in many parts of Africa is that people live in corrugated shacks that are boiling hot in the summer, freezing in the winter, damp and dripping in the raining season; electricity and running water are unheard of; positioned often where there is a vacant spot, with little thought to the threat of disease and natural disasters.

### 8.1.6 Economic Inequality

Examples proliferate in Africa of the rich getting exorbitantly rich in the ‘leafy suburbs’ of Africa (a reference to the wealthy suburb of Sandton in South Africa), presidents travel the world in luxury, and friends and families of the political elite become billionaires. Contrast this to large populations living in slums, without access to the very basic of life’s needs. In Zambia, the richest 10% of the population earn a total income that is 42 times larger than the poorest 10% of the population. In Cameroon, a child born from the poorest 20% of the population has more than twice the probability of dying before the age of five years than a child who was born in the top 20% of the population.

Inequality is cyclical and difficult to break. As the poor continue to be prevented from accessing the fruits of economic growth, they will be unable to emerge from the trappings of poverty. If the wealthy, through manipulation of political and economic structures, continue to syphon the country’s wealth, inequality will prosper.

### 8.1.7 Inequality in Human Rights and Human Capability

Inequalities in human rights and human capabilities often reflect inequalities in political power. Women, poor people and minority ethnic groups are often marginalised because they have weak political power and can be easily dominated by a majority. Sierra Leone had a very high level of inequality just before the outbreak of the ten-year-long civil war in 1989, inspired by young people who felt hopeless and powerless in their struggle for a better future.

Rwanda has set the benchmark on a number of fronts. From a gender equality perspective, it is the first and only country with the majority of parliament being female. So yes, certain African countries are making progress towards non-discrimination and the elimination of gender-based inequality, yet many others have a long way to go. Restrictive
cultural practices, religious views, discriminatory legislation and male-
based labour markets restrict the economic benefits of women in many
African economies. Yet women in Africa play a pivotal role driving socio-
economic growth in Africa: they conduct most agricultural activities;
they are central to the household economy; they care for their families;
and they are leaders in their communities (African Gender Equality
Index 2015: 5).

The African Gender Equality Index measures gender equality on three
scales. First, equality in economic opportunities: Namely, whether men
and women have equal opportunities in business and employment.
Second, equality in human development: Are boys and girls given equal
opportunity for schooling, and do women have access to reproductive
health services? Lastly, equality in law and institutions: Are women and
men equally well represented in institutions, do they have the same legal
rights and do they have the same household rights?

The results paint an interesting picture. Overall, South Africa, Rwanda,
Namibia, Mauritius and Malawi score the highest in that sequence. Yet
Mauritius scores higher than South Africa for human development, but
the least of the five countries in terms of economic opportunities. The
lowest five in the index are Somalia, Sudan, Mali, Libya and Guinea, in
that order. Yet Libya scores highly in terms of equality in human develop-
ment, but extremely low in terms of equality in laws and institutions.
These three scales and resulting indexes highlight the complexity of
addressing country-specific gender inequality in Africa.

Another cause for concern is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and
intersexed (LGBTI) rights in Africa. While South Africa was one of the
first countries in the world to entrench freedom from discrimination based
on sexual orientation, the rest of Africa lags far behind in recognising the
rights of the LGBTI community.

The death sentence for homosexuality exists in Sudan, Somalia and
some of Nigeria, while in a number of countries, homosexuality is crim-
inalised. In addition to legal discrimination, hate speech and violence
against the LGBTI community is common. President Robert Mugabe of
Zimbabwe, previous Gambian President Jammeh and Ugandan President
Museveni have all publicly denounced homosexuality as wrong and have
threatened retribution for these communities. So-called corrective rape
has occurred in South Africa—a hate crime against lesbians intended to
enforce heterosexuality.
8.2 Analysis of China’s Contribution to Improving the Well-Being of African People

The Forum on China–Africa Cooperation’s (FOCAC) Johannesburg Action Plan (2016–2018) provides some policy insights into China’s commitment to the improvement of well-being on the African continent. A summary of the points in the Action Plan that could have a fundamental impact in this regard are detailed in Table 8.2.

To gain greater insight into the actual activities or projects that China has conducted in Africa that contribute to the improvement of the well-being of Africans, the FOCAC (2017) website’s news releases were consulted to identify some of the interventions by the Chinese that have taken, or are taking, place in Africa. These are detailed in Table 8.3.

8.3 Case Study: China Makes a Decided Impact in Its Response to the Ebola Epidemic in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone

The Ebola Virus Disease, to use its full name, is a highly infectious, killer disease, with fatality rates in past outbreaks ranging from 25% to 90%. While the origin of the disease is unclear, and its existence relatively recent—the first cases were discovered in 1976 in the DRC—the disease poses terrible risks in many of Africa’s poorest nations with the least healthcare resources available to adequately care for those infected, and even less capacity to control the spread of the disease (Zhau et al. 2015).

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa was the most serious since the virus was discovered, and it affected Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Liberia in Africa, countries that have sometimes experienced years of conflict and instability, and many of which have inadequate healthcare and general infrastructure. When the Public Health Emergency of International Concern on Ebola was lifted on 29 March 2016, 28,616 confirmed and suspected cases of Ebola were recorded, with 11,310 deaths in total (World Health Organisation 2016). While Map 8.2 reflects the containment of Ebola with few new cases of Ebola at the time the map was published, the number of confirmed cases reflects the severity of the outbreak in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Liberia healthcare services were initially crippled by the Ebola outbreak. For instance, the period from January 2014 to March 2015 was character-
Table 8.2  Summary of the FOCAC Action Plan points related to improved well-being in Africa

| Area of cooperation        | Details of action plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agriculture and food       | Although classified under economic cooperation, the Action Plan emphasises safeguarding food security in the Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| security                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Social development         | Refers to a commitment to increase assistance that improves people’s livelihoods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Social assistance          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Medical care and           | China committed to develop Africa’s public health systems and policies; to improve public health, surveillance, epidemiological and prevention systems; to strengthen prevention and treatment of malaria and other common infectious and communicable diseases in Africa; and enhance the assistance in maternal, child health and reproductive health. It also committed to supporting cooperation between Chinese and African hospitals, upgrading hospital departments, training public health workers and administrative personnel, and to send medical teams to Africa to provide free short-term medical services. It supported the building of the African Union Disease Control Centre. It would support investment by Chinese enterprises in the medical and healthcare industries in Africa. Infrastructure would be improved through Chinese construction, renovation and equipping of medical facilities. |
| public health              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Poverty eradication        | The Action Plan refers to exchanging experiences on poverty eradication. One way was the joint organisation of the China–Africa Poverty Eradication and Development Conference to explore in-depth poverty eradication strategies and policies. China also committed to offering education programmes to train specialised personnel in the field of poverty eradication and development. In conjunction with African countries, China would implement village-community level comprehensive development projects. Resources would be mobilised, in conjunction with non-governmental agencies, to implement projects focused on women and children. |
| strategies                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Education and human        | A range of initiatives were detailed that addressed the shortage of professional and skilled persons that served as a major bottleneck constraining Africa’s independent and sustainable development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| resource development       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Environmental protection   | A range of efforts were detailed in the Action Plan that addressed long-term sustainability issues that would impact the lives of people in rural and urban environments, including the implementation of clean energy projects, environment-friendly agricultural projects and smart city construction projects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| and tackling climate       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| change                     | (continued)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
ised by the highly infectious nature of the disease, which resulted in 815 local health workers being infected (Liu et al. 2017: 262). International assistance was desperately needed to support health services and mitigate the spread of the virus.

While American, European and Japanese countries were withdrawing aid workers in light of the outbreak in 2014, China announced it was sending 115 infectious disease experts to the region. The dispatch of the Chinese government of 480 People’s Liberation Army medical staff to Liberia in November 2014 was a welcome intervention—the first time China had deployed a whole unit to combat an epidemic. The team established the 100-bed China Ebola Treatment Unit to treat suspected and infected Ebola patients. In addition, the unit provided public health and infection training to local healthcare providers. During the first two months, 112 Ebola-suspected patients presented at the unit, 65 were admitted, including 5 confirmed cases. The training was significant, with 1520 locals trained, which included healthcare workers, military care workers, staff at the unit itself and community members (Liu et al. 2017; Taylor 2015).

| Area of cooperation                  | Details of action plan                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Security cooperation                 | China committed to provide the African Union with US$60 million of free military assistance to operationalise the African Peace and Security Architecture. Mutual visits, training and sharing of technologies were detailed, as well as proposed intelligence exchanges and experiences to prevent and fight terrorism, ocean piracy and combat illegal trafficking of goods. It also committed to supporting the United Nations in playing a constructive role in regional conflicts in Africa |
| Consular, immigration, judiciary and law enforcement | Africa and China agreed to fight illegal immigration, transnational crimes, human trafficking, corruption and illegal trade in fauna and flora, to strengthen narcotics control, fugitive extradition and asset recovery, cyber security and law enforcement capacity-building |
| International cooperation            | “To strengthen international coordination and to establish a new model of global development that is based on equality, accountability, mutual respect and that is more balanced, stable, inclusive and harmonious” |

FOCAC (2015)
Table 8.3  Selected FOCAC news releases in 2017 detailing interventions aimed at improving the well-being of Africans

| Country           | Details                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Africa            | China has adopted a strategy of eradicating Malaria in Africa  
                    China supports wildlife conservation in Africa through a commitment towards supporting African countries in responding effectively to wildlife crimes |
| Botswana          | Chinese medical team contributes to Botswana’s health sector                                                                           |
| Central African Republic | China commits to support the United Nations to ensure adequate resources are made available for peacekeeping forces in the country |
| Ethiopia          | Completion of clean water cellar project that saw the building of 41 water cellars in the Oromia region, benefitting 4000 people  
                    Chinese embassy donates to child centre in Addis Ababa  |
| Ghana             | Donation of office accessories to the Office of the Attorney General in Ghana to build anti-corruption capacity and improve governance in Ghana |
| Kenya             | China gives the World Food Programme US$5 million towards supporting the 420,000 refugees living in Kenyan camps  
                    Chinese charity organisation donates to victims of fire in a Kenyan slum  
                    Kenyan doctor to promote Chinese medicine in Kenya |
| Liberia           | 140 Chinese peacekeeping police offices deployed to Liberia for a yearlong mission                                                       |
| Mali              | Recognition of China’s involvement in the United Nations’ peacekeeping mission in Mali that was helping maintain national peace and stability while supporting the fight against terrorism |
| Morocco           | 30 volunteers from a Chinese medical delegation in Morocco complete their two-year mission, with three new Chinese medical teams arriving in the country |
| Namibia           | China donates rice to drought-affected communities said to benefit 600,000 Namibians  
                    China to work with Namibia to combat poaching |
| Rwanda            | 18th Medical group arrives from China in Rwanda. China credited for constructing the Masaka Hospital and constructing dormitories for medical employees at the Kibungo Hospital |
| Somalia           | China provides 2800 tonnes food aid to drought-hit Somalia. US$1 million given to the United Nations Migration agency to support internally displaced persons and vulnerable communities in Somalia |
| South Africa      | China pledges to deepen cooperation with South African women on women’s affairs                                                        |

(continued)
Since the initial dispatch of healthcare workers, China has continued to offer support in Liberia and the entire region. In January 2015, a further 154 medical workers were sent to Liberia to support efforts in the fight against the disease. China had also provided US$121 million in cash and supplies to deal with the disease (Aljazeera 2015). Lin Songtian, the director general of China’s Department of African Affairs, committed China to continued intervention until Ebola was effectively eradicated from West Africa (Taylor 2015).

China was able to apply its homegrown experience in combating infectious diseases to the Ebola crisis—China has had to combat the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Avian flu. Due to the

| Country    | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| South Sudan| China donates half a million boxes of anti-malarial medicine to fight the disease in South Sudan  
A 15-member team of Chinese doctors donates assorted food items, school material and sports equipment to 48 children in an orphanage  
China provides US$5 million to the World Food Programme to better respond to famine  
China donates a batch of medicines and medical equipment to a children’s hospital in Juba                                                                 |
| Sudan      | China’s helicopter unit joins the peacekeeping mission in Darfur  
The colloquially named Sudan–China Friendship hospital provides health services for thousands of poor patients in the area                                                                                       |
| Uganda     | China donates 5900 tonnes of rice to Uganda as the country experienced food insecurity due to a prolonged dry season                                                                                     |
| Zambia     | Chinese-funded handover of 420 boreholes to rural communities to improve their access to clean water  
US$58 million made available to expand bed space at the Mwanawasa General Hospital to support better public health services in the country.  
Medical teams donate telemedicine equipment  
Zambia honours 18th medical team supporting healthcare services since the 1970s                                                                 |
| Zimbabwe   | 200 scholarships offered to students from the Harare Metropolitan Province by the Zhejiang Province in China  
The Chinese Embassy in Zimbabwe donates US$1 million in funding and US$60,000 specifically for the provision of basic foods to assist local communities affected by floods in the southern part of the country  
12,000 tonnes of rice donated to Zimbabwe to help alleviate food shortages                                                                                       |

FOCAC (2017)
meticulous infection controls adopted in Liberia, none of the Chinese, nor any of the staff at the China Ebola Treatment Unit, were infected during China’s intervention in Liberia.

From a long-term perspective, China could contribute to the long-term eradication of the disease and prevent future outbreaks. A number of international efforts are in the pipeline to develop better diagnostic tools, services and vaccines, with China at the forefront in trying to find solutions to the disease. Chinese military scientists have developed a vaccine against the Ebola virus, and plans are in the pipeline to mass-produce the vaccine.

Map 8.2 Geographical distribution of new and total confirmed cases of Ebola: 30 December 2015. (World Health Organisation 2015)
In addition to humanitarian interests, it is important to note that China did have economic and internal political reasons for responding to the crisis. China had significant economic investments in the region, and was a key trading and investment partner in the region: China’s total trade with Sierra Leone was US$1.1 billion in 2013, accounting for 47% of Sierra Leone’s total trade, making China its top trading partner; China’s trade with Liberia totalled US$2.1 billion in 2013, accounting for 18% of the country’s total trade; while in Guinea, US$823 million worth of trade with China accounted for 12.4% of its total trade, making it Guinea’s second biggest trade partner (Taylor 2015). At the time of the outbreak Chinese firms were engaged in US$15 billion worth of investments in West Africa. China had also been an important influence on Liberia’s peace-building efforts.

Thousands of Chinese workers had also been imported to work in the region. Some of China’s initial response was to evacuate Chinese workers from Ebola-affected countries. One example provided by Taylor (2015) is the evacuation of workers contracted to build a road between Liberia and Guinea—this largest infrastructure project in Liberia ground to a halt. While figures are difficult to come by, it is estimated that half of the Chinese living in Ebola-affected countries left in 2014 (Taylor 2015: 49).

While China had a vested economic and reputational interest in containing the epidemic, it would appear that China’s efforts went a lot further than protecting their own interests. China played a concerted and important role in controlling the outbreak, contributed to the reduction of fatalities, improved the long-term response capacity of West African countries and, possibly, will contribute to the eradication of the disease in its entirety.

### 8.4 Case Study: Caring for Displaced Somalis

In March 2013, an estimated 9 million refugees and internally displaced persons originated from East Africa and the Horn of Africa, with the region recording the largest increase in refugees globally in 2012 (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2017). Armed conflict, acute poverty, drought and the absence of gainful employment are the major contributors to the problem, with people fleeing the DRC, Somalia and South Sudan and entering the ‘safe havens’ of Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda and elsewhere, contributing to the burden of these countries also in the flux of their own economic challenges (Map 8.3). Kenya, for instance, is estimated to host 600,000 refugees, most of which are from Somalia.
Within Somalia itself, the IOM estimated that, in 2015, 1,133,000 persons were internally displaced due to conflict and violence, as well as severe food shortages (International Organization for Migration 2017). The al-Shabaab has been waging a military insurgency in the country, often adopting terrorist tactics in their efforts, some of which are the worst that Africa has seen—in July 2015, 15 people were killed in a suicide attack at a hotel in Somalia, damaging the neighbouring Chinese Embassy and injuring some Chinese nationals, while over 300 people were killed in a truck bombing in Mogadishu in October 2017.

Trying to escape the horrors in Somalia, and often in search of greener pastures elsewhere, many Somalians have tried to leave the country, often with tragic results. One escape route is to cross the Gulf of Aden to Yemen and find their way to the Persian Gulf where the promise of work in the oil-rich nations beckons. The route is extremely dangerous. Smugglers are known to treat refugees terribly, sometimes even robbing them and, in the not-so-uncommon outcome, throwing them off the boats. Those who do reach the shores of Yemen alive are often sick from the stresses of the trip. Yemen itself has been crippled by years of war, and those Somalians who do make it to the shore face terrible hardship, and their chances of reaching Saudi Arabia are slim.
China’s contribution to improving the lives of displaced Somalis has been multipronged: Diplomatic; food provision; support of refugee camps in neighbouring countries; support of efforts to repatriate Somalis living in other countries; improving homeland security; and support in the provision of housing and healthcare. China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2017) details some of the significant interventions China has made in Somalia and towards the migrant crisis facing the country (Table 8.4).

8.5 Case Study: A Critique of the Impact of Chinese Mining Operations on Social Wealth and Capital in Africa

There have been varied approaches by Chinese mining companies entering the African resource market, including the ‘Angola-mode’ framework agreements that saw the ‘swap’ of resources for infrastructure, financed mostly through the Chinese Exim bank, and which resulted in Chinese mining interests in Africa ballooning.

On the positive side, resource extraction can have beneficial externalities on the social upliftment of often remote communities where these resources are found. To enable mining operations, transport infrastructure has to be provided for by the mining companies to get the minerals to the closest port for export. Communities would benefit from these new roads and railway networks. The mines would provide a source for employment, and because mines often need to provide some level of primary healthcare and education for both local and migrant employees, these services would often be made available to the wider community. Electricity, information and communication technology, water provision and sewerage are all prerequisites for mines to operate, again opening up the opportunity for local communities to benefit.

There are also obvious negative externalities. The peaceful nature of these rural communities will be forever changed by the mines and the influx of migrant workers and access to modern life extravagances. There have been numerous examples, not specifically from Chinese mining operations, but from a range of companies that have begun mining in rural areas where the impact on local communities has been extremely damaging: These negative effects range from loss of land and financial independence to social community impacts and damage of infrastructure and the environment.
| **Chinese intervention** | **Details** |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Diplomatic interventions | China has been diplomatically working with authorities in Somalia, regional powers and the African Union in order to find a long-term solution to the woes of the country. China has also engaged the United Nations to increase the international communities’ commitment to addressing peace and stability in Somalia. In 2016, China donated a range of equipment and supplies to the African Union for the specific purpose of capacitating the African Union Mission in Somalia. |
| Support of the United Nations International Organization for Migration | China donated US$1 million towards the United Nations International Organization for Migration to support its efforts to help internally displaced people, vulnerable communities and Somalis returning to their country. |
| Support of internally displaced people | China has contributed to support those who have been displaced due to famine and war. The migration of people to the capital of Mogadishu included many orphaned children, who had often no support, in a city characterised by warlords fighting over control. Orphanages, mostly established by concerned local citizens, were poorly equipped. China has made some direct donations of furniture, school desks, blankets and school equipment to help these orphanages provide a greater level of care. |
| Support of refugees | China has supported both the care for Somali refugees in refugee camps and of their repatriation. In 2015, China donated 5800 tents to Kenya to support the efforts of voluntary repatriation of Somalis living in Kenya’s refugee camps. |
| Famine and drought relief | The famine due to drought and the displacement of people due to conflict has been critical for some time. China has contributed financially to the World Food Programme and directly through food donations. For instance, in June 2017, China dispatched two shiploads of rice to Somalia as part of its US$300 million emergency food programme. The donation was expected to contribute to the feeding of 223,500 Somalis for a four-month period. |
| Security in the Gulf of Aden | Pirate attacks on vessels off the coast of Somalia, including Chinese vessels, became quite commonplace, affecting the important trade route through the Gulf of Aden and the Suez Canal. China’s military facilities in neighbouring Djibouti support efforts to deter criminal activity in these coastal waters. |
| Healthcare | Also through China’s support of the African Union Mission in Somalia, the Mission was able to provide medical support for Somalis in their local communities. |

Source: China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Chinese companies have sometimes met criticism for their lack of community engagement when establishing mining operations in Africa. One prime example was the Jiuxing Mine in Soamahamanina, Madagascar. The mining company had negotiated their 40-year mining permit for gold extraction with the Madagascan government, and while there were some basic Corporate Social Investment (CSI) conditions attached to the permit, there was almost no engagement with the community. The mining company bought land voluntarily from many of the local community members, and set up operations.

Before the mine was able to begin operations in 2016, the community erupted in protest. Jiuxing Mine was accused of wanting to destroy the local church and school, eliminating the livelihoods of the local people, taking away their ancestral land and homes and damaging the environment. There were also accusations levelled at the mine and the government for corruption. Protest leaders were arrested, but protest action continued, until eventually, Jiuxing Mine was closed down. By mid-2017, mining operations had not recommenced, even though the mine management had suggested it would enter into further negotiations with the Madagascan government.

The DRC is a treasure trove of minerals and Chinese mining operations are quite extensive in the country. However, there have also been accusations levelled by Amnesty International and others at Chinese mining operations for human rights abuses in the south-eastern region (Katanga Province) of the DRC (Map 8.4). Take, for instance, the Congo International Mining Corporation (CIMCO), which forcibly evicted 300 families from the town of Luisha. Given a two-week notice period, the families were trucked to new sites and dropped off—with no housing or facilities. In the same region, COMILU, a Congolese–Chinese joint venture mining company, excavated a 3 metre wide trench that blocked access for the local communities to water and their fields. Protests were met by force, with police firing live ammunition, killing one protester (Amnesty International 2013).

Artisanal mining in the DRC is a common practice, with these miners often working with their bare hands in extremely hazardous conditions. They receive very little for the minerals that they sell, in a corrupt system of systematic exploitation. At the Tilwezembe Mine near Kolwesi, Amnesty International (2013) documented harmful labour conditions and ill-treatment, including fatalities from preventable landslides and falling boulders, and insufficient ventilation.
However, Chinese companies, just as their Western counterparts have been doing, have increasingly committed themselves to good corporate citizenship principles. Chinese mining companies have also been influenced by a greater prioritisation and legislation by the Chinese government on environmental issues in the mining community, as well as being more proactive in corporate social responsibility due to China’s Social Harmony Policy. Sustainability reporting by mining companies is a key component to making the industry more transparent and accountable for their activities.

CSI activities are especially important in mining communities due to the finite nature of these non-renewable minerals and resources. Many mining companies globally focus their CSI attention on diversifying the local communities’ economy in order to be sustainable after the mine inevitably closes.

It remains to be seen whether Chinese extractive industries in Africa adopt a more proactive role in community engagement and corporate social responsibility that truly makes a long-term, sustainable impact on communities in which they operate.
8.6 China’s Impact

China, through its substantial humanitarian efforts, and by the very nature of its role in infrastructure and economic investment efforts, can and does contribute to improving the well-being of Africans throughout the continent. While Chinese mining interests have been tarnished by poor working conditions and lack of community engagement, efforts by the Chinese government and the necessity of community engagement to enable operations, may engender more sustainable mining operations in the future.

China’s impact on the African Tree of Organic Growth from the perspective of well-being is detailed in Fig. 8.2.

In terms of the African Tree of Organic Growth, China is seen as having a positive impact on human development and social capital. The activities described in this chapter highlight that China is actively engaged in addressing urgent crises on the continent, such as drought, food security and famine; containing the outbreak of disease such as the Ebola epidemic; and through diplomatic and peacekeeping efforts, trying to find long-lasting solutions to conflict areas in Africa. Its investment in infrastructure directly assists African governments in providing better services to their people, including electricity, water, sewerage and other basic services provision. The wide range of efforts to engage culturally facilitates a better understanding and respect for the rich cultures of Africa and China.

Fig. 8.2  China’s contribution to the well-being and cultural wealth in Africa
However, there has been evidence of human rights abuses by some Chinese companies operating in Africa, especially in the extractive industries, and an apparent lack of community engagement and a long-term sustainable approach to these communities. China seems to have committed itself to increased corporate social responsibility, which in the long term will hopefully reduce these negative impacts Chinese investments may have in Africa.

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