

Making the voices of those who are affected heard



Mozambique

A large share of the government revenues of Mozambique has to be spent for servicing the debt. Little is left for health, education and water provision. At the same time, our income base has hardly grown despite substantial investments. This is because multinational mining companies barely pay taxes and simply move their profits out of the country.

Dr. Eufrigina dos Reis Manoela, Grupo Moçambicano da Dívida

Barbados

When Germany was over-indebted in the 1950s, it got a very generous debt relief from its creditors, despite its horrible recent history. When we in the Caribbean ran into problems due to natural disasters or political decisions in Brussels or Washington, we were still forced to repay everything.

Bishop Jason Gordon, Diocese of Bridgetown



Egypt

For years, rich countries willingly provided loans to the dictatorship in our country. Now, we are asked to pay for the bullets, which were fired at us.

Noha El Shoky, Egyptians for a Sovereign Debt Audit

Tanzania

The new debt crisis is looming. Although Tanzania received debt relief under the multilateral debt relief initiative for heavily indebted countries, all signals indicate that we are heading towards another debt crisis.

*Hebron Mwakagenda,
Tanzania Coalition on Debt and Development*



Bolivia

Although Bolivia was able to reduce its debt by half, the dependence on fluctuating world market commodity prices remained. We need to be cautious about what we use capital market loans for in the future. Internationally, we need fair rules for the restructuring of sovereign debt as promoted recently by the United Nations and as we have implemented in national law already.

Patricia Miranda, Fundación Jubileo



Ghana

Africa's manufacturing firms are being wiped out by cheap European products that enjoy subsidies from their government

Clara Osei-Boateng, SEND Ghana



Senegal

When we were not longer able to service our debt, our government had to ask the Paris Club and IMF and World Bank for relief. Given that the creditors did not want to accept any losses, they prevented a sustainable solution for us. This is why we have been in the Paris Club more than ten times in a row - and in the end, we became one of the poorest countries in the world.

Abbé Epiphane Maïssa Mbengue, Diocese of Thiès



Zambia

Heavily indebted poor countries' capacity to provide social services such as health, education and water will be compromised as resources will be diverted to debt service. The most vulnerable of a society - women and children - will suffer the most under these austerity measures.

Geoffrey Chongo, Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection

