DEVELOPMENT REIMAGINED

NOVEMBER 2026

AFRICA'S FACTORY MOMENT:

AFRICA'S BID FOR A BIGGER SHARE OF GLOBAL MANUFACTURING, AND CHINA'S RESPONSE



developmentreimagined

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African countries have attracted at least US$ 19 billion of manufacturing investment from Chinese firms since FOCAC 9

113
PROJECTS TRACKED

19
COUNTRIES

US$ 19bn+
ESTIMATED FDI (AT LEAST)

13
INDUSTRIES

African countries have long sought to move from exporting raw materials to manufacturing, and the need remains pressing: between 1990 and 2024, primary goods made up about 45% of the continent's exports each year, compared with about 25% for manufactured consumer goods, Africa's share of global manufacturing output has fallen from about 3% in the 1970s to less than 2% today, and 10 to 12 million young people enter the continent's workforce each year. At the ninth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC 9), held in Beijing in September 2024 under the theme of jointly advancing modernisation, African governments secured commitments from China that speak directly to these ambitions, including at least RMB 70 billion (about US$ 10 billion) of investment in Africa by Chinese companies over three years and a partnership on industrial chain cooperation intended to "enable Africa to retain added value". Development Reimagined (DR) therefore tracked the manufacturing investment that African countries attracted from Chinese public and private sector stakeholders between September 2024 and June 2026, in industries ranging from cement and steel to textiles, pharmaceuticals and electric vehicles (EVs), and this report looks at where that investment is going, on what terms, and what role FOCAC can play in strengthening its contribution to African industrialisation.

DR identified 113 projects that 19 African countries attracted, worth at least US$ 19 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) and covering 13 industries. African countries have therefore secured almost double the investment pledged by Chinese companies at FOCAC 9 for the three years from 2025 to 2027, in less than two years and in manufacturing alone, separately from the US$ 41.2 billion of mineral exploration, mining and mineral processing projects analysed in DR's companion report, Beyond Ore. By value, four industries account for over 70% of FDI: bricks, ceramics, cement and glass (US$ 4.3 billion), food and agro-processing (about US$ 4 billion), metalworks (about US$ 3 billion), and clean energy and batteries (about US$ 3 billion). By number of projects the picture is broader: automotive and EVs (21 projects), bricks, ceramics, cement and glass (20), textiles and apparel (18) and consumer electronics/fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) (10) account for 69 of the 113 projects.

Together, the projects show that African countries have attracted a broad base of manufacturing activity from Chinese firms. The benefit to African countries depends on whether this activity is matched by local supplier linkages, skills and technology transfer, and on the terms agreed, which are stated for only a minority of projects.

The report makes four main findings

1 African countries are attracting Chinese investment across a wide range of manufacturing activities, despite concentration in a few industries.

Investment is not confined to a narrow set of sectors or driven only by natural resources. It includes construction materials, textiles, food processing and consumer goods, alongside automotive, battery and other clean energy manufacturing.

2 Established industrial zones anchor further investment.

Egypt and Uganda, the two countries with the most projects, host the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone and the Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park, which hosts nine of the projects across six industries. Shared infrastructure and business networks make these locations more attractive to later investors and create room for supplier linkages between factories.

3 Market orientation differs by industry.

Several Egyptian textile projects plan to export 80% or more of their output, and the Hisense-Condor air conditioner plant in Algeria plans to export 80%. Cement, ceramics, glass and steel plants mainly serve domestic and regional markets, because these products are costly to transport over long distances. Since May 2026, all 53 African countries with diplomatic relations with China have had duty-free access to the Chinese market.

4 African countries are retaining investors, who are expanding across the continent.

LESSO, Huaxin Cement, West China Cement, Wonderful Group and KEDA Industrial Group have projects in several African countries. Huaxin Cement has invested in Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, and West China Cement in the DRC, Ethiopia, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. These companies are acting as anchors for Chinese manufacturing investment in Africa: they may have been seen as taking risks when they first invested in individual African markets, but their decisions to return, expand and enter neighbouring countries suggest that manufacturing in Africa has proved commercially viable for them, and that, once established on the continent, Chinese manufacturers tend to deepen their presence rather than withdraw.

24 recommendations ahead of FOCAC 10

The report makes 24 recommendations ahead of FOCAC 10, set out in full in Section 3.5 and summarised below:

A African governments

NINE RECOMMENDATIONS

African governments should develop industrial zones as long-term platforms for linked manufacturing, match national industrial strategies with infrastructure, skills and supplier capacity, negotiate local content and African equity participation when agreements are signed, require measurable technology-transfer and skills commitments, use repeat investors and targeted incentives to deepen investment and fill import gaps, and publish the terms of major projects while coordinating their positions and securing common commitments through FOCAC.

B Chinese public and private sector stakeholders

NINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chinese public and private sector stakeholders should continue to scale up their investment in African manufacturing, publish the terms of their investments, offer African equity and set local sourcing targets, use their existing African footprints to develop local suppliers and transfer technology, move from assembly to local component manufacturing, pair acquisitions with new capacity, use public finance to support industries with little investment so far, and design plants for regional African markets as well as for export.

C International partners

SIX RECOMMENDATIONS

International partners should engage in African manufacturing as partners and not as competitors to China, encourage the non-Chinese owners of existing African plants to add value locally, finance the infrastructure that industrial zones and manufacturers depend on, support African-owned industrial data, help African manufacturers meet carbon-related market requirements, and partner with African research, technical and vocational institutions.





01
INTRODUCTION

Why industrialisation matters, and how this report tracks the manufacturing investment African countries have attracted from China

Industrialisation, jobs and the terms on which investment is agreed

Industrialisation is central to Africa's medium and long-term development agendas, including Agenda 2063, which envisages "regional industrialization hubs linked to the global value chains", and the national development plans of African countries (AU Commission, 2015). It was also central to the ninth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC 9), held in Beijing in September 2024, at which African and Chinese leaders committed to jointly advancing modernisation, an objective that is difficult to achieve without industry and without the jobs that industry creates. At FOCAC 9, President Xi Jinping announced RMB 360 billion (about US$ 51 billion) in financial support over three years, including at least RMB 70 billion (about US$ 10 billion) of investment in Africa by Chinese companies, as well as a Partnership Action for Industrial Chain Cooperation under which China would "foster industry cooperation growth clusters with Africa" and "enable Africa to retain added value".[1] Since then, African countries have attracted a range of manufacturing investments from Chinese public and private sector stakeholders, which have been announced, signed or begun across the continent. The policy context has also shifted: duty-free market access to China, first extended to African least-developed countries, was extended in May 2026 to all 53 African countries with diplomatic relations with China.

African governments have worked for decades to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI), through investment promotion agencies, special economic zones and, more recently, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the results have been uneven. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), FDI flows to Africa reached a record US$ 97 billion in 2024, or 6% of global FDI, but this was largely driven by a single project finance deal for urban development in Egypt, without which inflows were about US$ 62 billion, or 4% of the global total, and they fell back to about US$ 70 billion in 2025, a level that UNCTAD notes is the third-highest since 1990 but which remains concentrated in a relatively small number of countries and sectors.[2][3] Within this picture, Chinese investment has grown rapidly from a low base. Data from the China Africa Research Initiative (CARI) show that China's FDI stock in Africa rose from about US$ 491 million in 2003 to US$ 43.8 billion in 2024, and by 2021 UNCTAD already ranked China's stock of US$ 44 billion alongside those of the United States (US$ 45 billion), France (US$ 54 billion) and the United Kingdom (US$ 60 billion), even though the investment relationships of France and the United Kingdom with many African countries were built up over a far longer period that began in the colonial era (CARI, 2026b; UNCTAD, 2023). With China now the world's largest manufacturer, accounting for about 28% of global manufacturing value added in 2024, the question this raises is whether African countries can use Chinese investment differently from earlier waves of FDI, to build their own manufacturing capacity more directly.[4]

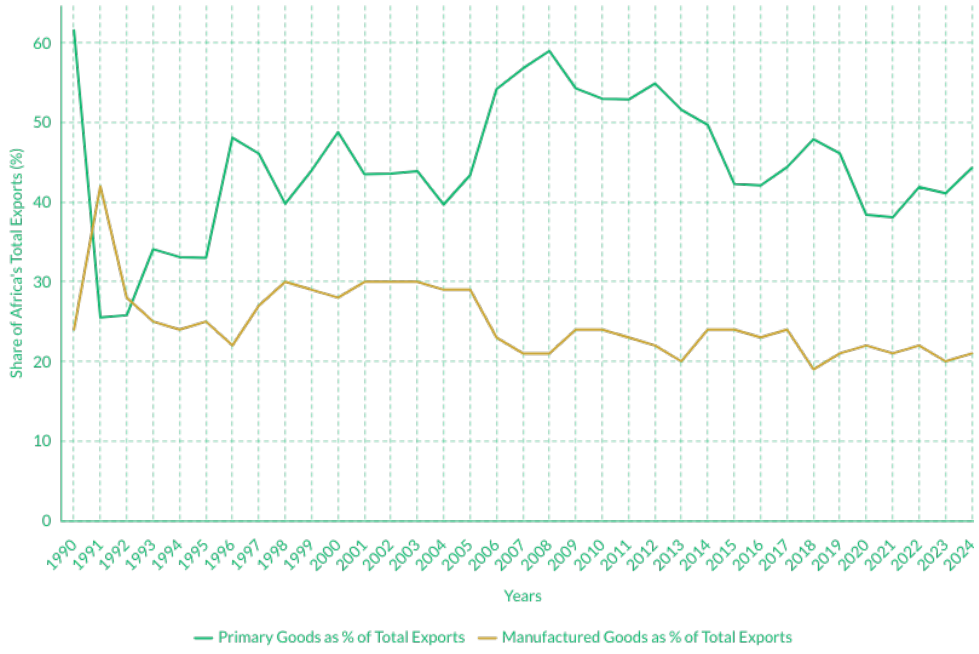
This report examines the manufacturing investments that African countries have attracted from Chinese companies since FOCAC 9, and on what terms. It also considers what role FOCAC can play in strengthening the contribution that these investments make to Africa's industrial development goals.

These questions matter because Africa's trade remains weighted towards raw materials, and because African countries have set themselves ambitious goals for manufacturing. Between 1990 and 2024, primary goods made up

1 The New Times, (2024, September 5). *Xi's statement at 2024 FOCAC Summit opening ceremony*. Available **here**.
2 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), (2025, June 19). *Africa: Foreign investment hit record high in 2024* (press release). Available **here**.
3 UNCTAD, (2026, July). *Africa attracting investment in strategic industries; the challenge is turning it into broader industrial development* (press release). Available **here**.

about 45% of the continent's exports each year and manufactured consumer goods about 25%, a structure that has changed little over more than three decades (Figure 1), and Africa's share of global consumer goods exports is as low as 1% (WITS, 2026). These shares follow the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) product groups based on UNCTAD's stage-of-processing classification, in which primary goods are recorded as raw materials, and are lower than UNCTAD's own estimate that about three-quarters of Africa's merchandise exports are primary commodities because semi-processed goods, such as refined metals and petroleum products, are counted as intermediate goods rather than raw materials. Over a longer period, Africa's share of global manufacturing output has fallen, from about 3% in the 1970s to less than 2% in 2023, and manufacturing accounted for about 13% of the continent's GDP in 2023 (ISS, 2026b). Most African countries import more high value goods than they export. At the same time, the AfDB estimates that 10 to 12 million young people enter Africa's workforce each year, while only about 3 million formal jobs are created annually, and modelling by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) suggests that a concerted push for manufacturing could create about 35 million additional jobs across the continent by 2043, compared with current trends (AfDB, 2016). Manufacturing in Africa can therefore reduce import bills, create jobs on the scale that Africa's young population requires and build local supply chains, in line with the African Union's aim of regional industrialisation hubs linked to global value chains, and in a way that makes African countries producers for global manufacturing rather than only suppliers of its raw materials. The benefit that African countries gain from these investments depends on the terms on which they are agreed, including ownership, local sourcing, employment and skills.

FIGURE 1 **Share of Primary Goods (Raw Materials) and Manufactured Consumer Goods in Africa's Exports, 1990-2024 (%)**



To answer these questions, DR tracked the Chinese equity investments in manufacturing that African countries secured in 13 industries between September 2024 and June 2026. Section 1.1 sets out the data and approach. Sec-

4 CGTN, (2025, December 31). *Report: China's manufacturing sector reaches second global tier*, citing the Chinese Academy of Engineering's *2025 China Manufacturing Power Development Index Report*. Available **here**.

tion 2 analyses the projects by industry, and Section 3 draws out the key findings and sets out recommendations for African governments, Chinese stakeholders and international partners.

1.1 Data and Methodology

Preparation of this report followed three steps outlined below

FIGURE 2 Three Steps in DR's Research Process

STEP 1 Desktop Research	STEP 2 Data Collection and Analysis	STEP 3 Benchmarking
Qualitative research identifying FOCAC commitment trends, as well as bilateral outcomes since FOCAC 9.	Collection of data on bilateral cooperation, focussing on manufacturing of goods in Africa, in partnership with China.	Benchmark the role and potential impact of invested projects against African development agendas across industries.

Step 1. Desktop Research

Through desktop research, past FOCAC outcomes were mapped over time. Next, the qualitative dataset created made it possible to identify similarities between each FOCAC, as well as key developments that align with African priorities such as Agenda 2063 and national development plans.

Step 2. Data Collection and Analysis

A clear timeline was developed beginning from September 2024 when FOCAC 9 occurred and ending in June 2026 at the time this research was conducted. Additionally, criteria were formed to standardise the nature of projects relevant for this report's analysis. This included:

- When defining the range of sectors that represent industrial cooperation, two main considerations were taken. First, that projects were geographically based in an African country with diplomatic relations with China. In total, this qualified 53 African countries. [5] Second, that projects involved the transformation of raw materials into higher value intermediate or consumer goods. As an intermediate step in the manufacturing process, assembly of goods were also included. Although mineral value addition aligns with these industrial cooperation guidelines, this report only includes mineral processing projects that use raw materials for further downstream processing. The end-products created are then used as inputs in other sectors such as infrastructure development. For a full analysis on Africa-China mineral exploration, mining and mineral processing cooperation, read here.
- Based on the two considerations above, the following 13 industries were selected (listed in alphabetically descending order):

1. **Automotive/Electric Vehicles (EVs).** Two, three, and four-wheeled vehicles were considered, as well as long-range or heavy-duty vehicles often used in haulage businesses.
2. **Bricks, Ceramics, Cement, and Glass.** As anchors of construction industries, production of these key inputs in Africa has the potential to reduce infrastructure costs and accelerate project implementation timelines.

5 The People's Republic of China The State Council Information Office, (2026, January 12). *Celebrating 70 years of diplomatic ties, China, Africa boost cooperation in advancing modernization*. Available **here**

3. **Clean Energy/Batteries**. As Africa's population and industrial activities grow, the need for sustainable energy access will require reliable, affordable generation and storage infrastructure.
4. **Consumer Electronics/Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG).** Despite owning the raw materials required to manufacture consumer electronics and FMCGs, African countries are often net importers of such goods. Reversing such trends is an important step in Africa's industrialisation journey.
5. **Food and Agro-processing**. As a foundation of food security, the production of raw agricultural commodities and their processing within Africa supports national resilience to cyclical disruptions such as international supply chain breakdowns that raise food import costs.
6. **Heavy Machinery**. Often imported but increasingly sourced within the continent, equipment such as excavators and road pavers support implementation of Africa's medium and long-term infrastructure development goals.
7. **Light Industrial Goods**. These create direct and complementary linkages with industries such as construction, the generation, transmission and storage of energy, as well as metalworks. Availability of goods such as water and drainage piping materials supports cost-effective industrial development and timely project delivery.
8. **Logistics Infrastructure**. In-line with regional integration and implementation of an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), production of goods such as shipping containers and railway infrastructure accelerates intra-African exchange of goods, as well as exports of African goods to global markets.
9. **Medical and Pharmaceuticals.** In additional to strengthening public health systems, research, development, and manufacturing of drugs for animals, humans, and plants promotes sustainable development across Africa.
10. **Metalworks**. In support of Africa's construction industry, production of materials like reinforcement bars, electrical cables, and wire rods forms an important linkage that accelerates infrastructure implementation timelines.
11. **Paper and Packaging.** For an increasingly interconnected Africa under the AfCFTA, this industry's role will support secure delivery of goods traded within countries and across the continent.
12. **Telecommunication (telecoms)/Digital.** In parallel to traditional, paper-based good exchanges, telecoms and digital platforms will be the backbone of African industrial engagement with global markets.
13. **Textiles and Apparels.** Globally renowned for high-quality, distinct fabrics, the growth of African textiles from trade in raw materials to innovative, higher-value apparels will be a key component in advancing the Made in Africa initiative.[6]

- When defining the nature of industrial cooperation, an additional criterion applied was project funding attributable to a Chinese public or private sector stakeholder. More specifically, equity investment. This may be for the entire project where a project is based in an African country but is wholly foreign owned, majority controlled by the respective Chinese investor, partially owned through a joint venture partnership that includes a Chinese investor, or minority owned by a Chinese investor. Project participation through debt or engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) did not qualify.

6 International Trade Centre, (2025, April 8). *'Made in Africa': A game change for the continent's trading in goods and services.* Available **here**

- In terms of data sources, publicly available data were used, supplemented by the Bloomberg Terminal, and searches were conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English and French in order to capture projects that are reported in the languages of investors and host countries, and not only in English-language media, with machine translation tools, including Google Translate, web browser translation tools and the Bloomberg Terminal's automated translation, used to review sources in languages other than English. Sources reviewed included news articles and open-access research papers, official statements by African and Chinese government agencies and embassies, announcements by investment promotion and special economic zone authorities such as the General Authority for the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) and the Uganda Investment Authority, press releases by Chinese and African companies, specialist industry publications such as Global Cement and CemNet, and company and transaction data from the Bloomberg Terminal. Each of the 113 projects was cross-checked manually against the sources reporting it, drawn from 113 unique project sources, some of which report more than one project, and more than 140 sources are cited in this report in total. Alongside these sources, data from the Bloomberg Terminal, DR's China-Africa Climate Action Tracker (for investments other than energy generation), the China Africa Research Initiative (CARI) and WITS were used to identify projects, to benchmark them and to place them in context. Next, a dataset was created and categorised by industry, along with other variables such as a project's geographic location, financial value of investments made, and an outline of the specific outputs each project is reported to target.
- Where investment values were not publicly disclosed, case-by-case evaluations were made by this report's authors to assess whether or not participation of Chinese stakeholders was indeed aligned with investment or intended investment, and not debt or EPC. This evaluation process was supported by supplementary desktop research, also using publicly available data sources. Because investment values were not publicly disclosed for 25 of the projects tracked, and because some of the values that were disclosed cover only the first phase of a project, the total investment value estimated in this report should be read as a lower bound, and the true value of Chinese manufacturing investment recorded over the period is likely to be higher. For this reason, the total is presented as a minimum estimate throughout this report.

Step 3. Benchmarking

To complement the identification of post-FOCAC 9 industrial cooperation, the role and potential economic impact of each industrial investment was evaluated in the context of Africa's medium and long-term development agendas. By applying benchmarks, this research asks three key questions:

1. How much progress has the continent made in achieving its medium and long-term industrial development goals?
2. Are Africa's industrial investments from China aligned with African priorities?
3. What role can FOCAC have in accelerating Africa-China industrial partnerships?

Figure 3 below illustrates continental benchmarks adopted in this report.

FIGURE 3 African and Global Development Targets Used to Benchmark the Investment Tracked

01 Energy

300 GW

renewable energy generation capacity by 2030

AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT (NAIROBI DECLARATION, 2023)

02 Human capital and economic output

2.5bn people

by 2050, with GDP of about US$ 17 trillion and income per capita of about US$ 13,000

POPULATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTIONS

03 Infrastructure

2030

resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and innovation

PROGRAMME FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (PIDA); SDG 9

04 Innovation

1% of GDP

spent each year on research and development

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (STISA); AU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

05 Jobs and decent work

10-12m

young people entering Africa's workforce each year, who need decent and productive jobs

AU OUAGADOUGOU +10 DECLARATION ON EMPLOYMENT (2015); AGENDA 2063

06 Manufacturing

Made in Africa

industrial growth using local resources, with minimal environmental impact and compliance with quality standards

ACCELERATED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR AFRICA (AIDA); AU MADE IN AFRICA INITIATIVE

07 Mineral value addition

Value chains

built through local manufacturing of clean-energy technologies

AFRICA MINING VISION; AFRICA'S GREEN MINERALS STRATEGY

08 Trade

One market

a single African market for goods and services

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AFCFTA); BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE (BIAT)

Together, these benchmarks provide the yardstick against which the investments analysed in Section 2 are assessed, so that each industry's projects can be read not only by their value, but by how far they advance the targets that African governments have set for themselves.



02

POST FOCAC 9 TREND ANALYSIS

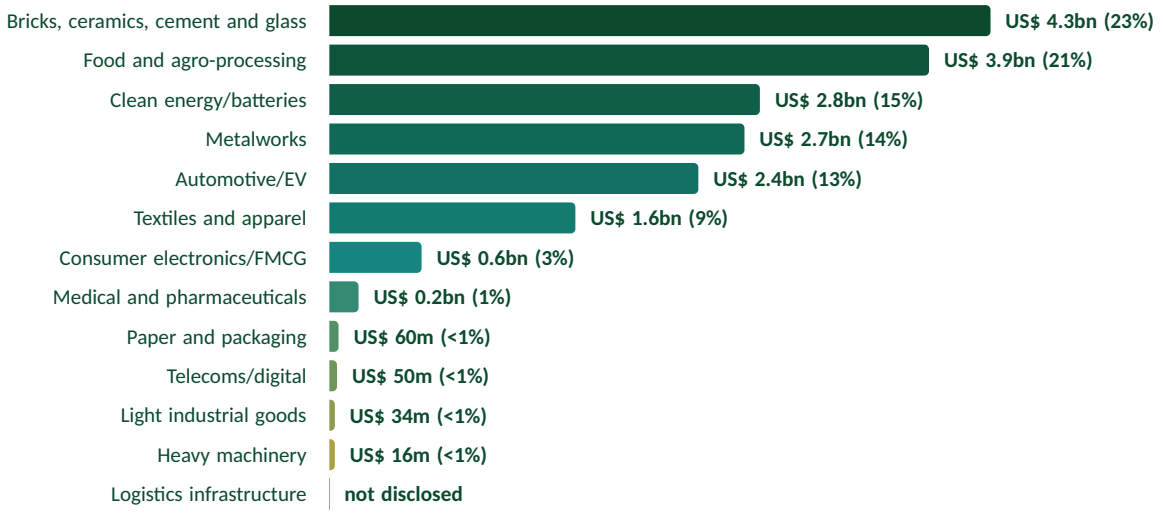
Manufacturing investment attracted by African countries from China across 13 industries since September 2024

113 projects in 19 African countries, worth at least US$ 19 billion, in less than two years

Between September 2024 and June 2026, DR's Africa-China manufacturing and industry tracking identifies 113 projects distributed across 19 countries. Together, these projects are worth at least US$ 19 billion, with four industries representing over 70% of FDI (Figure 4). This is almost double the RMB 70 billion (about US$ 10 billion) of investment by Chinese companies that China committed at FOCAC 9 for the three years from 2025 to 2027, and African countries secured it in less than two years and in manufacturing alone, excluding the US$ 41.2 billion of mineral exploration, mining and mineral processing projects analysed in DR's Beyond Ore report (Development Reimagined, 2026c). It is also large relative to past trends: according to China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), annual Chinese FDI flows to Africa across all sectors were US$ 3.96 billion in 2023, and according to the Boston University Global Development Policy Center and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), announced Chinese greenfield investment in Africa across all sectors reached a record US$ 13.7 billion in 2023 before falling to US$ 8.6 billion in 2024 (BU GDP Center and AERC, 2026).[7] Announced investment values and recorded FDI flows are measured differently, and not every announced project will proceed at the value stated, but the comparison suggests that the manufacturing investment African countries have attracted from China since FOCAC 9 has been substantial by historical standards.

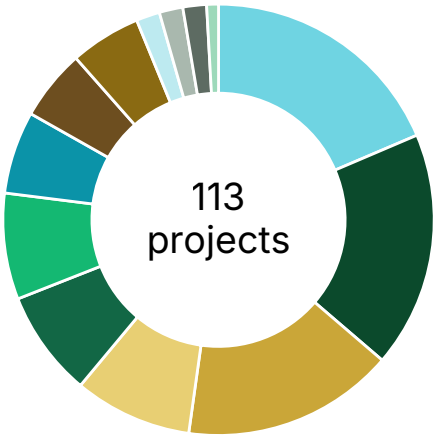
Measured by value, construction materials attracted the most investment, with US$ 4.3 billion across 20 projects, followed by food and agro-processing, clean energy and metalworks (Figure 4), while measured by number of projects, automotive and EV manufacturing leads with 21 (Figure 5), so that the industries attracting the most projects are not always those attracting the most capital. Investment in heavy machinery, logistics equipment, paper and packaging, and telecoms and digital manufacturing remains limited, with no more than two projects in each, despite the large import and infrastructure gaps in these industries set out in the sections below.

FIGURE 4 **Value and Share of Newly Announced Chinese Investment in Africa since FOCAC 2024 by Industry (US$ and % of Total)**



7 Caixin, (2024, September 25). *2023年中国对东盟、非洲投资快速增长* [China's investment in ASEAN and Africa grew rapidly in 2023], citing the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, National Bureau of Statistics and State Administration of Foreign Exchange, *2023 Statistical Bulletin of China's Outward Foreign Direct Investment*. Available here.

FIGURE 5 Share of Newly Announced Chinese Investment Projects in Africa since FOCAC 2024 by Industry (Number and % of Projects)



21	19%	Automotive/EV
20	18%	Bricks, ceramics, cement and glass
18	16%	Textiles and apparel
10	9%	Consumer electronics/FMCG
9	8%	Food and agro-processing
9	8%	Clean energy/batteries
7	6%	Metalworks
6	5%	Medical and pharmaceuticals
6	5%	Light industrial goods
2	2%	Paper and packaging
2	2%	Logistics infrastructure
2	2%	Heavy machinery
1	1%	Telecoms/digital

21
AUTOMOTIVE/EV PROJECTS, THE MOST OF ANY INDUSTRY

US$ 4.3bn
BRICKS, CERAMICS, CEMENT AND GLASS, THE LARGEST BY VALUE

70%+
OF FDI IN FOUR INDUSTRIES

The sections below assess sector-by-sector investments across Africa, highlighting key trends, project ownership structures and FDI values where information is accessible, as well as the potential impact of invested projects. Sectors below are listed in alphabetically ascending order.

2.1 Automotive/EV

21
projects

13
countries

US$ 2.4bn
investment

Although this sector has the fourth largest FDI inflows recorded, the 21 projects identified are the most within a single sector. Among the 13 countries with Automotive/EV investments, US$ 2.4 billion worth of investments were recorded. In Algeria, three projects valued at about US$ 235 million were identified, led by the US$ 130 million Chery-IRIS passenger vehicle manufacturing plant.[8] This joint venture between Omoda & Jaecoo (Chery Group) and the IRIS Group from Algeria is projected to create about 1,200 jobs. Announced during the 2025 Algeria-China Business Forum were a US$ 105 million investment agreement between Algeria Foundries and Jetour for a 270k per year vehicle manufacturing plant, as well as a motorcycle production facility by Qianjiang Motorcycle (QJ Mo-

8 Ecofin Agency, (2025). *Omoda & Jaecoo to build tourist vehicle plant in Algeria with IRIS*. Available here

tor).[9] Based on initial project announcements, the QJ Motor project is set to prioritise electronic and motor system technology transfer, positioning Algeria for sustained automotive industry production capacity.

IN THE NEWS

"China's Chaoyang LongMarch breaks ground on $190 mln Egypt tyre plant – SCZONE"

Amwal Al Ghad, 2026

In Angola, a US$ 4 million investment was secured for an automotive parts factory by Phaeton Industry. This two-phase project will target brake discs and drums for light motor vehicles, generate 59 jobs (mostly for Angolans), and should add a further US$ 5 million in future investments.[10] Further North, about US$ 725 million in FDI was identified in Egypt's four automotive/EV projects. Targeting tyre production in Egypt are a US$ 190 million factory by Chaoyang LongMarch, a US$ 100 million tyre mould factory by the Himile Group, as well as a US$ 300 million investment agreement signed with the Sailun Group.[11][12] Lastly, Al Mansour Automotive signed a US$ 135 million agreement with the SAIC Motor Group for a 50k per year car manufacturing plant.[13] Notably, this project targets a local component ratio of over 45%, securing supply-side participation for Egypt's broader automotive industry.

Like Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, Rwanda and Uganda also secured individual automotive/EV deals. For Ethiopia, a US$ 22 million EV and modern office furniture MoU between Industrial Parks Development Corporation of Ethiopia (IPDC) and Anda Vehicle Manufacturing Company & Aniy Furniture PLC.[14] In Ghana, although the financial terms were not disclosed, a new energy vehicle assembly plant MoU was also signed between West Africa Eco-Drive and Gecko Motors.[15] For Morocco, Tianyouwei Electronics announced the creation of a subsidiary named Tianyouwei Electronics Morocco Co., Ltd, with a US$75 million investment targeting automotive components and smart cockpit production.[16] Over in Rwanda, Asia Machinery Sinotruk Rwanda announced the country's first truck assembly factory with an undisclosed investment value.[17] Concluding the single-project list is Uganda's Hercules Automobile Manufacturing factory, a facility that will produce heavy trucks and machinery within the Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park.[18]

Still in East Africa, Kenya secured two investments, one of which has undisclosed financial terms. First, an US$ 800 million MoU for the tyre production plant by Shandong Linglong Tire Company in the Mombasa Special Economic Zone. The second for Kenya, a 300 vehicle per month and 1.5k unit per year vehicle assembly investment announcement by MojaEV Kenya Ltd.[19]

In West Africa, automotive/EV projects identified are Nigeria's two, US$ 105 million investments, and South Africa's three US$ 388 million deals. First, in Nigeria, a US$ 100 million investment framework agreement signed by Jiangmen Tengxin Motorcycle Technology Co. Ltd for an EV manufacturing plant.[20] Second, a US$ 5 million electric and hybrid motorcycle assembly facility by Lincon Bravos Automobile Company.[21] Beyond the headline invest-

9 Scooter DZ, (2025). *Algérie – Chine : un partenariat stratégique relance l'industrie du deux-roues avec CYCMa et QJ Motor*. Available here
10 VerAngola, (2025). *Investment of four million guarantees the first auto parts factory in the country*. Available here
11 Yasser, Y., (2026). *China's Chaoyang LongMarch breaks ground on $190 mln Egypt tyre plant – SCZONE*. Available here
12 China-Africa TEDA Investment Co., Ltd., (2025). *Nearly $300 million tire project established in TEDA Cooperation Zone, adding a new flagship to China-Egypt economic and trade cooperation*. Available here
13 EnterpriseAM, (2024, December 31). *Al Mansour Auto, SAIC's USD 135 mn MG manufacturing plant to go live in 2026*. Available here
14 Fana Media Corporation, (2024). *Chinese EVs, office furniture manufacturer to invest 2.6bn Birr at Bole Lemi Industrial Park*. Available here
15 Ghana News Agency, (2025). *Ghana, China sign MoU to build NEV Assembly Plant*. Available here
16 Africa News Agency, (n.d). *Morocco: Tianyouwei invests €65m in automotive subsidiary*. Available here
17 RADIOTV10, (n.d). *Asia Machinery Sinotruk set to launch first truck assembly factory in Rwanda*. Available here
18 Rugunda, J., (2025). *Museveni commissions new maga factories at Sino-Uganda Industrial Park, pledges more jobs*. Available here
19 Bloomberg, (2025, April 25). *China-backed EV distributor plans to assemble vehicles in Kenya*. Available here
20 Malawi Broadcasting Corporation, (2026, January 16). *Chinese firm to establish US$100 million EV plant in Nigeria*. Available here
21 Bagudu, F., (2026). *Chinese automaker opens assembly plant in Minna*. Available here

ment of this project, the Niger State government secured 10% in equity for this project, ensuring a share in future profits and project participation beyond corporate and employee income tax payments. Over in South Africa, Chery Automobile's Rosslyn vehicle assembly plant acquisition announcement had no publicly disclosed investment value, but this FDI inflow is complemented by the BAIC Group's US$ 377 million production plant upgrade and complete knock down process integration, as well as a US$ 11 million FAW Coega Plant Upgrade and capacity expansion programme announcement in the coastal city of Gqeberha.[22][23]

Lastly, a US$ 55 million multi-country investment was secured by Spiro Africa from an unnamed Chinese investment fund. This investment represents about 20% of the total funds raised by Spiro for its EV motorcycle and battery-swapping facility development, as well as market entry plans in the DRC, Ethiopia, and Mali.[24]

Africa's outlook on automotive and EVs should be evaluated through the intersection between population growth and climate action. On the one hand, Africa's population is projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050 (ACET, 2025). In terms of the economic output that would pair with these projections, gross domestic product (GDP) may exceed US$ 17 trillion compared to about US$ 3 trillion as of 2025 (ISS, 2026a). Similarly, incomes per capita would double to about US$ 13k by 2050, partially strengthened by full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Such growth projections translate to greater household spending capacities, as well as for African enterprises participating in the AfCFTA.

In terms of climate action on the continent, Africa's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement are also positive signals for the future role of automotives, particularly EVs. Although African countries are among the lowest carbon emitters in current and historical terms, climate mitigation represents about half of the continent's anticipated climate mitigation needs (Ritchie, H, 2023; Development Reimagined, 2026a). Both private and commercial vehicles will therefore have important roles to play, particularly where national policies align with carbon emission reduction ambitions as they do in countries like Ethiopia where a 10-fold leap in EVs has recently been achieved.[25] Considered together, population growth and the continent's climate action present an untapped investment opportunity that lies in favour of EVs.

TABLE 1 **Complete List of Automotive/EV Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Announced/ Signed	**Algeria**	**105m**	Jetour; FONDAL (SNS Holding)
Announced/ Signed	**Algeria**	**130m**	Omoda & Jaecoo (Chery group) + IRIS Group
Announced/ Signed	**Algeria**	**-**	Qianjiang Motorcycle (QJ Motor)
In Operation	**Angola**	**4m**	Phaeton Industry (Chinese private investor; exact parent-company identity not independently confirmed)

22 Engineering News, (2025, November 10). *BAIC builds B30 in South Africa, Gqeberha plant expands local footprint*. Available here
23 Engineering News, (2024, November 13). *FAW to upgrade Coega truck plant in R200m investment*. Available here
24 African Business, (2026). *Chinese investment drives $270m Spiro funding round*. Available here
25 Stock, K., (2026, November 2). *Ethiopia's Improbable Leap to Electric Vehicles*. Available here

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Investment	**DRC; Ethiopia; Malawi; Mali**	**55m**	NewTrails Capital
Announced/ Signed	**Egypt**	**135m**	SAIC Motor Corp (with Al Mansour Automotive Group)
Under Construction	**Egypt**	**190m**	Chaoyang LongMarch Tyre Co., Ltd.
Under Construction	**Egypt**	**300m**	Sailun Group
Investment	**Egypt**	**100m**	Himile Group
Investment Announced	**Ethiopia**	**22m**	Anda Vehicle Manufacturing Company & Aniy Furniture PLC
MoU Signed	**Ghana**	**-**	Eco-Drive New Energy Vehicle Co., Ltd (West Africa Eco-Drive); Shenzhen Gecko New Energy Vehicle Technology., Ltd (Gecko Motors)
Announced/ Signed	**Kenya**	**800m**	Shandong Linglong Tire Co. Ltd.
Announcement	**Kenya**	**-**	MojaEV
Investment Announced	**Morocco**	**75m**	Tianyouwei Electronics
In Operation	**Nigeria**	**5m**	Lincon Bravos Automobile Company
Investment Proposal	**Nigeria**	**100m**	Jiangmen Tengxin Motorcycle Technology Co.Ltd
Automobile	**Rwanda**	**-**	Sinotruk
In Operation	**South Africa**	**-**	Chery Automobile
In Operation	**South Africa**	**377m**	BAIC Group / Foton
Under Construction	**South Africa**	**11m**	FAW Vehicle Manufacturers SA (China FAW Group Corporation [majority control], China-Africa Development Fund (CAD-Fund) and FAW Africa Investment Company Ltd.
Under Construction	**Uganda**	**-**	Hercules Automobile Manufacturing (Uganda) Co., Ltd

2.2 Bricks, Ceramics, Cement, and Glass

20
projects

15
countries

US$ 4.3bn
investment

With US$ 4.3 billion in FDI across 20 projects in 15 countries, this category of projects leads all industrial investments identified. With the exceptions of Uganda and Zimbabwe, countries registered one project each. Beginning in North Africa, where Egypt and Tunisia secured investments valued at US$310 million and US$ 140 million respectively. For Egypt, China Glass Holdings' 1k tonne per day float and ultra-clear, rolled photovoltaic glass is expected to generate about 1k jobs.[26] In Tunisia, Sinoma Cement made a 100% equity purchase of the approximately 2 million tonne per annum Jbel Oust cement plant from Brazil's Votorantim Cimentos.[27] In West Africa, Nigeria leads FDI volumes with a US$ 773 million investment for an 83.81% share of Lafarge Africa, the third largest cement producer in the country.[28] Next, a US$ 250 million investment by the joint venture between KEDA Ceramics and Guangzhou Sunda International Trading Company Limited.[29] As one of Africa's largest float glass production facilities, the new venture is projected to produce about 1.4k tonnes of glass products daily. Across the national border, KEDA Ceramics and Guangzhou Sunda partnered again in a US$ 54 million, 21 million square metre per year tile manufacturing plant in Côte d'Ivoire, set to be the first in the country.[30]

IN THE NEWS

"Malawi Welcomes Game-Changing $100M Cement Plant as Huaxin Delivers Record-Breaking Project"

CCE Online News



Lafarge Africa's cement plant at Ewekoro, Ogun State, Nigeria. Huaxin Cement acquired an 83.81% stake in Lafarge Africa, the largest single investment in this category. Photo: Fachab, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

East Africa's five projects were valued at US$ 1.3 billion. First, in Ethiopia, with a US$ 600 million, joint venture investment by West International Holding and East African Holding Company.[31] Once complete, the plant should produce 4.5 million tonnes of cement annually, 30 million square metres of gypsum boards per year, as well as 400k tonnes in gypsum powder plant or agricultural-grade gypsum per year. More importantly, once complete, over 50% of the country's cement demand will be matched in output from the new facility, shrinking import require-

26 Xinhua, (2024, November 29). *Chinese glass company breaks ground on 310-mln-USD plant in Egypt*. Available here
27 CemNet, (n.d). *Sinoma Cement acquires stake in Jbel Oust*. Available here
28 CemNet, (n.d). *Huaxin's acquisition takes the competition to Dangote's door*. Available here
29 3News, (2026). *President Mahama cuts the sod for $250m glass manufacturing factory in Shama*. Available here
30 APR News, (n.d). *Les Chinois Keda Ceramics et Guangzhou Sunda International inaugure la 1ère usine de fabrication locale de carreaux en Côte d'Ivoire de 30 milliards FCFA*. Available here
31 East African Holding, (n.d). *National Cement _ Lemi Plant*. Available here

ments while improving construction industry input security. In Kenya, a US$ 50 million investment by KEDA Ceramics will yield a 11k square metre per day, full polished glaze and rustic tile production line, the first in Kenya.[32]

Also in East Africa is Huaxin Cement's US$ 370 million Maweni Cement Plant in Tanzania.[33] Commissioning of the Maweni plant's second phase aligns with Huaxin Cement's broader 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), whereby production capacity aims to quadruple outside China in recognition of a slowing domestic market in China.[34] The last of East Africa's investments are in Uganda, where West China Cement's US$ 300 million, 2 million tonne per year cement clinker production line was commissioned.[35] Additionally and complementing Uganda's Moroto district cement clinker production line is a 1.5 million tonne capacity clinker grinder facility by Yaobai International Holdings.[36] Since clinker represents about 85% of cement production, securing investments in these two production lines should reduce Uganda's clinker and overall cement imports.

Southern Africa's 10 projects were valued at about US$ 2 billion. First, a US$ 6 million investment by West China Cement subsidiary, WIH Cement, for a 7.75% stake in Cimenterie de Lukala SA (CILU) in DRC.[37] The 134,105 in company shares were purchased from World Bank Group subsidiary, the International Finance Corporation (IFC). For Malawi, Huaxin Building Materials Group's US$ 100 million, 800k tonnes per annum cement plant represents the country's largest manufacturing investment by a Chinese company.[38] More importantly, this investment is projected to save Malawi about US$ 50 million every year in foreign exchange that would otherwise have been spent importing clinker and finished cement. South Africa's two projects involve US$ 201 million worth of acquisitions and production line upgrades. First, a US$ 56 million kiln upgrade by Huaxin Cement's subsidiary, Natal Portland Cement, boosting production capacity by 87% to 2.8 million tonnes per year.[39] Next, a US$ 145 million full takeover of AfriSam by West China Cement.[40] Funded using a combination of internal resources and debt, the acquisition feeds into West China Cement's broader Southern African market expansion ambitions.

In Zambia, the Wonderful Group invested US$ 25 million in a joint venture agreement with Zambia's state-owned ZCCM Investments Holdings (ZCCM-IH), a partnership aiming to develop and run a lime and cement production facility.[41] Following this investment, the Wonderful Group becomes the dominant partner with a 55% share in the project, while ZCCM-IH holds the remaining 45% portion. Zimbabwe's five projects, valued at about US$ 1.2 billion, round-up Southern African investments. First, a US$ 15 million, 300k tonne per year cement manufacturing plant funded by Huaxin Cement.[42] Second, a US$ 15 million, 300k tonne per year cement plant by Tsingshan Holding Group's subsidiary, Dinson Iron and Steel.[43] In addition to the 150 local jobs the project is expected to create, Dinson Iron and Steel plans to source limestone for this project from towns and cities surrounding the Dinson Special Economic Zone, promoting local procurement and downstream supply chains.

Third, a US$ 120 million, 800k tonne per annum cement production line by Shuntai Investments.[44][45]Recognising the high, anticipated power consumption of this cement project, plans for a 50 megawatt (MW) thermal power plant

32 KEDA Group, (n.d). *KEDA Machinery—HLT&DLT Expands Global Footprint with Complete Plant Solutions Making Strides in Africa*. Available **here**
33 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, (2025). 王雪坤大使出席卢旺达*Value Platform Industrial*日化工厂开业典礼. Available **here**
34 Global Cement, (n.d). *Huaxin Cement Tanzania Mavini Company commissions new clinker line at Maweni Cement Plant*. Available **here**
35 State House Uganda, (n.d). *Uganda moves to cut clinker importation as President Museveni commissions Yaobai factory*. Available **here**
36 Cement China, (2026). *Yaobai International Holding Co., Ltd. Uganda grinding station project with annual output of 3 million tons put into operation*. Available **here**
37 CemNet, (n.d). *West China Cement subsidiary acquires Cimenterie de Lukala*. Available **here**
38 CCE Online News, (n.d). *Malawi Welcomes Game-Changing $100M Cement Plant as Huaxin Delivers Record-Breaking Project*. Available **here**
39 Global Cement, (n.d). *Natal Portland Cement completes Simuma kiln upgrade*. Available **here**
40 CemNet, (n.d). *West China Cement closes in on AfriSam acquisition*. Available **here**
41 ZCCM Investments Holdings Plc, (2026, May 27). *Ndola Limestone transaction announcement (SENS)*. Available **here**
42 The Herald, (n.d). *Chinese cement production giant sets US$15 million plant in Zimbabwe*. Available **here**
43 CemNet, (n.d). *Dinson Industrial Group to invest US$15m in new Zimbabwean cement plant*. Available **here**
44 CemNet, (n.d). *Chinese continue to build new cement plants in Zimbabwe*. Available **here**
45 Mining Zimbabwe, (n.d). *Shuntai's US$120m Chegutu Cement Plant Nears Commissioning*. Available **here**

are in progress, easing the burden on an already strained national power grid. Fourth, and also funded by Shuntai Investments, is a 1.8k tonne per day clinker production line.[46] Combined with its 800k tonne per year cement production line, Shuntai Investments is set to become one of Zimbabwe's largest cement producers with their annual production capacity of over 3 million tonnes. Concluding Zimbabwe's investments is a US$ 1 billion partnership between Labenmon Investments and China-based West International Holding for a 900k tonne per year and 1.8 million tonne per year capacity clinker production line.[47] In addition to the estimated 5k in local jobs the project will create, a 100 MW power plant will also be developed to complement the project's energy-intensive cement manufacturing ambitions.

Data indicates that between 2013-2024, Africa's construction industry was the largest FDI destination from China (CARI, 2026a). Over a longer timeline covering 2000-2024, Africa-China debt data highlights that energy and transportation have received the highest volumes of funding at US$ 66.1 billion and about US$ 53 billion respectively (BU GDP Center, 2026). Together, these two industries represent about 66% of African debt commitments. When debt is viewed in parallel with African FDI secured from China, infrastructure development stands-out as an African priority, affirming its central role in Africa's long-term development agenda (AU, 2026).

In line with Africa's 60% urbanisation outlook by 2030 and near doubling in population growth by 2050, the continent's infrastructure development needs will remain high (IFC, 2024; ACET, 2025). Accordingly, the need for affordable bricks, ceramics, cement, glass, and other building materials will be critical. All Africa-China construction industry investments are therefore timely interventions with huge upsides for current and future investors.

TABLE 2 **Complete List of Bricks, Ceramics, Cement, and Glass Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
In Operation	**Côte d'Ivoire**	**54m**	Keda Ceramics; Guangzhou Sunda International
In Operation	**DRC**	**6m**	West China Cement Ltd (through subsidiary WIH Cement)
Under Construction	**Egypt**	**310m**	China Glass Holdings Co., Ltd.
In Operation	**Ethiopia**	**600m**	West China Cement Ltd (with East African Holding)
Under Construction	**Ghana**	**250m**	KEDA Ceramics/Twyford International
In Operation	**Kenya**	**50m**	KEDA Industrial Group / Twyford International
In Operation	**Malawi**	**100m**	Huaxin Cement Group (through subsidiary Portland Cement Malawi)
In Operation	**Nigeria**	**773m**	Huaxin Cement
In Operation	**South Africa**	**56m**	Huaxin Cement (through subsidiary Natal Portland Cement (NPC)

46 Bulls Zimbabwe, (n.d). *Shuntai, CBMI sign Zvishavane cement expansion deal*. Available here
47 Global Cement, (n.d). *Labenmon Investments and West International Holding to build US$1bn cement plant at Magunje*. Available here

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
In Operation	**South Africa**	**145m**	West China Cement
In Operation	**Tanzania**	**370m**	Huaxin Cement company
In Operation	**Tunisia**	**140m**	China National Building Materials Group Corporation's Sinoma Cement Co., Ltd.
In Operation	**Uganda**	**300m**	West China Cement Ltd (invested and constructed by subsidiary Yaobai International Holding Limited)
In Operation	**Uganda**	**-**	West China Cement/Yaobai International Holding
Announced/Signed	**Zambia**	**25m**	Wonderful Group of Companies (55% JV with ZCCM-IH)
In Operation	**Zimbabwe**	**15m**	Huaxin Cement
Announced/Signed	**Zimbabwe**	**15m**	Dinson Iron and Steel (Tsingshan Holdings subsidiary)
Under Construction	**Zimbabwe**	**120m**	Shuntai Investments (Pvt) Ltd
Announced/Signed	**Zimbabwe**	**-**	Shuntai Investments/CBMI Construction Co. (Sinoma International / CNBM)
Under Construction	**Zimbabwe**	**1 bn**	Labenmon Investments (Pvt) Ltd / WIH (West China Cement/ Yaobai International)

2.3 Clean Energy/Batteries

9 projects

4 countries

about US$ 3bn investment

In the four countries in which investments were identified in this category, nine projects worth about US$ 3 billion in FDI were secured. Beginning with Egypt, where US$ 366 million of investments is distributed across three projects. First, a US$ 200 million solar energy complex by Sunrev Solar in Egypt's Suez Canal Economic Zone.[48] Through this two phase project, Egypt will attain a 4 gigawatt (GW) solar cell and module production capacity, while also manufacturing solar ingots and wafers. Second, a US$ 116 million manufacturing plant by EliTe, with production capacities of 2GW in solar cells as well as 3GW in solar module.[49] Lastly, a US$ 50 million battery energy storage system (BESS) factory in Egypt's Suez Canal Economic Trade Cooperation Zone.[50]

Kenya's two projects include a solar panel manufacturing plant by Hounen in the Tatu City Special Economic Zone, as well as a US$ 10 million power product assembly line by the Hexing Group.[51][52] Over in Morocco, the country's three investments are led by a US$ 2 billion lithium-ion battery components

48 Construction Review, (n.d). *Egypt's $200 Million Deal with China's Sunrev Solar for the Ain Sokhna Solar Energy Complex Project*. Available here
49 Ecofin Agency, (n.d). *Egypt opens 5 GW solar manufacturing complex as it targets 42% renewables by 2030*. Available here
50 PV Magazine, (2026, August 27). *Sungrow breaks ground on 10 GWh battery storage factory in Egypt*. Available here
51 Tatu City, (n.d). *Hounen enters Africa with real estate investment at Tatu City SEZ*. Available here
52 KBC Digital, (n.d). *China steps up investments in Kenya with launch of local operations by Hexing Group*. Available here

joint venture investment by Moroccan investment fund Al Mada and China's CNGR Advanced Materials.[53] Next, the announced US$ 30 million electrolyser manufacturing base by the Jiangsu Guofu Hydrogen Energy Equipment Company (GUOFUHEE).[54] Third, and still in Morocco, a US$ 340 million wind turbine blade manufacturing plant by Ailong Technology.[55] Concluding the clean energy/batteries segment is a US$ 35 million solar panel assembly plant in South Africa's Mpumalanga province, a project funded by Shandong province's Wucheng municipality.[56]

According to DR's Africa-China Climate Action Tracker, renewable energy has consistently led Africa-China energy cooperation and has been an investment anchor (Development Reimagined, 2026b). With a pipeline of 49GW in renewable energy to be implemented, energy generation and its storage will be pivotal components in Africa's aim to scale clean energy generation from 56GW in 2022 to 300GW by 2030 (Africa Climate Summit, 2023). Looking ahead and guided by Africa's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, climate adaptation and mitigation finance needs will be about US$ 2 trillion (CCICED, 2024). Countries like Egypt and Ethiopia alone will require about US$ 418 billion for their combined climate mitigation needs, highlighting the critical role clean energy will have on the continent. By extension, all clean energy generation and storage investments will continue to be national priorities and opportunities for scaled-up Africa-China cooperation.

TABLE 3 **Complete List of Clean Energy/Batteries Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Under Construction	**Egypt**	**200m**	Sunrev Group
In Operation	**Egypt**	**116m**	EliTe Solar
Contract Signed	**Egypt**	**50m**	Sungrow
Announced/Signed	**Kenya**	**-**	Hounen
Investment announced	**Kenya**	**10m**	Hexing Group
Announcement	**Morocco**	**2 bn**	CNGR Advanced Materials
Investment announced	**Morocco**	**30m**	Jiangsu Guofu Hydrogen Energy Equipment Co., Ltd. (GUOFUHEE)
In progress	**Morocco**	**340m**	Ailong (Aeolon) Technology
Contract Signed	**South Africa**	**35m**	Wucheng Municipality

53 Reuters, (2025, June 25). *Sino-Moroccan COBCO begins producing EV battery materials*. Available here
54 Global Hydrogen Review, (2026, May 27). *GUOFUHEE commissions a green hydrogen system*. Available here
55 The North Africa Post, (n.d). *Wind Turbine Blades: Chinese Ailong Technology to open its 1st overseas plant in Morocco*. Available here
56 News24, (2025, October 15). *Mpumalanga, Chinese municipalities ink deal for solar-panel plant*. Available here

2.4 Consumer Electronics/FMCG

10	9	US$ 635m
projects	countries	investment

The 10 investments in this category are distributed fairly evenly across nine countries, with about US$ 635 million in FDI secured. Starting in Algeria, where a US$ 200 million Hisense-Condor joint venture targeting air conditioner production commenced through a partnership agreement.[57] Under this deal, 80% of output will be exported, while the balance of goods will be sold in Algeria. In Angola, a health and sanitation-oriented investment by Polystone Angola aims to manufacture sanitary non-woven fabrics and sanitary film at volumes of 10k tonnes and 3.6k tonnes per year respectively.[58] As the only investment destination with two consumer electronics/FMCG projects, Egypt recorded about US$ 255 million in FDI through a US$ 185 million large-scale industrial complex by the Deli Group, as well as a US$ 70 million investment in household glassware, also by the Deli Group.[5960] Over in West Africa, the Ghana-based arm of Hwani Group, Jintao Sanitary-Ware Ghana, aims to produce affordable sanitary-ware to real estate agencies and home builders across Africa guided by a 70%-30% split between Africa-focussed exports and output dedicated to local markets.[61]

In Kenya, a US$ 5.4 million Softcare investment targets production line expansion for products such as baby diapers, sanitary pads, as well as wet wipes.[62] Notably, Softcare's investment is guided by a broader African and global market expansion strategy, where countries such as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Benin should also host future production plant investments. Still in East Africa, a US$ 12 million joint partnership by Beijing Yi and the Zhejiang Chuanhua Group will yield a 24k tonne in laundry detergent per year venture.[63] Complementing this manufacturing base is a three-way industry-academia relationship, where Rwanda's Musanze Vocational and Technical College and China's Jinhua Vocational and Technical University facilitated study abroad opportunities for about 20 Rwandan electrical automation and e-commerce scholars. As part of their learning experience, the scholars had an opportunity to apply skills learnt at Rwanda Value Platform Industrial Chemical Plant.

Over in Morocco, a US$ 9.2 million investment from Shanghai Auto Air Conditioning Parts aims to produce electrical goods such as new energy vehicle components and accessories.[64] In Nigeria, the Haier Group's US$ 20 million factory investment will target production of goods such as mobile phones, smart boards, as well as clean energy-oriented goods with agricultural and transport sector applications.[65] Lastly, in South Africa, following a US$ 134 million Kwikot takeover by Haier from Electrolux, Haier is set to continue its global water heating and purification expansion ambitions.[66]

Global trade data indicates that between 1990-2024, primary goods such as raw materials represented about 45% of the continent's overall exports each year (WITS, 2026). In contrast, manufactured or consumer goods like consumer electronics represented about 25% of exports each year. Relative to global consumer goods exports, Africa's contribution is as low as 1%. On average, only four African countries have been net consumer good exporters,

57 GBC, (2025, February 21). *Hisense and Condor Deepen Partnership to Build Largest Air Conditioner Factory in Africa*. Available **here**
58 Polyrocks, (n.d). 聚石化学安哥拉基地投产庆典成功举行，非洲市场战略迎来新篇章. Available **here**
59 Daily News Egypt, (2025, March 26). *Chinese Deli Group plans major industrial complex in 10th of Ramadan City*. Available **here**
60 Belt and Road Portal, (n.d). *Chinese glassware manufacturer Deli to invest 70 mln USD in Egypt*. Available **here**
61 Business & Financial Times, (n.d). *1m-capacity sanitary-ware factory creates 600 jobs in Takoradi*. Available **here**
62 Kizito, P., (2026, March 30). *Kenya: Chinese Firm Softcare to Invest Sh698mn in Kenyan Expansion*. Available **here**
63 Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Rwanda, (2025, March 20). 王雪坤大使出席卢旺达*Value Platform Industrial*日化工厂开业典礼. Available **here**
64 Sohu, (2025, October 22). *Shanghai Auto Parts Sets Up a wholly-owned subsidiary in Morocco, 8 million euros of capital to help the manufacturing of new energy vehicle parts* . Available **here**
65 Ugwuanyi, E., (2026, February 16). *Enugu Govt, Haier Group seal deal on $20m factory, eye $30m expansion*. Available **here**
66 Haier Group, (2026, February 9). *Haier Launches in South Africa*. Available **here**

meaning that most African countries import more high value goods than they export. Yet, particularly in terms of electronic goods, African countries are at the centre of international discussions on the supply of inputs required for high-end manufacturing of EVs, battery-storage technology, and mobile phones. Such disparities reveal the significance of investments in consumer electronics and FMCGs. Without these targeted investments, African countries will continue to export low value raw materials while importing them in their processed, higher value formats such as manufactured goods.

TABLE 4 **Complete List of Consumer Electronics/FMCG Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Announced/Signed	**Algeria**	**200m**	Hisense and Condor Group
In Operation	**Angola**	**-**	PolyStone Chemical/ Polirock Química
Investment Announced, Construction Underway	**Egypt**	**70m**	Deli Glass
Under Construction	**Egypt**	**185m**	Deli Group
In Operation	**Ghana**	**-**	Hwani Group (Jintao Sanitary Ware)
Investment Announced	**Kenya**	**5.4m**	Softcare
Announced/Signed	**Morocco**	**9.2**	Shanghai Automobile Air-Conditioner Accessories Co., Ltd.
In Operation	**Nigeria**	**20m**	Haier Group (Haier Global Business)
In Operation	**Rwanda**	**12m**	Value Platform Industrial Rwanda Ltd (jointly by Beijing Yihe International Group and Zhejiang Chuanshua Group)
In Operation	**South Africa**	**134m**	Haier Smart Home (Kwikot)

2.5 Food and Agro-Processing

9 projects

6 countries

about US$ 4bn investment

The nine investments identified in this category are distributed across six countries and have a total value of about US$ 4 billion. Angola, Kenya, and Zambia each secured two projects each, but Zambia stands-out in terms of FDI secured through a US$ 600 million United Capital Fertiliser Urea Plant, as well as the US$ 1.4 billion Urea Phase 2 investment. Both ventures are funded by the Wonderful Group and operate from its Wonderful Industrial Park.[67][68] Next, Nigeria's US$ 684 million Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone investment is backed by China Overseas En-

67 Kapihya, M., (2025). *President Hichilema commissions United Capital Fertiliser Urea Plant in Chilanga*. Available here
68 United Capital Fertilizer, (n.d). *United Capital Fertilizer's $600 Million Urea Plant Reaches Key Milestone with Delivery of Aerospace Pulverized Coal Gasifier AKA "Chi Bottle"*. Available here

gineering Group Company Limited (COVEC) and China Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC).[69] Notably, this project is directly attributable to Nigeria's engagement with China through FOCAC.

IN THE NEWS

"Uganda launches first processed pineapple exports to China"

FreshPlaza, 15 May 2026

For Kenya, two agro-processing deals were secured during President Ruto's April 2025 state visit to China. First, a US$ 400 million aloe and vineyard development venture by the Zonken Group, and a US$ 30 million poultry and feed plant by Shandong Jialejia.[70] The last of the dual ventures are in Angola, where Citic Construction has committed US$250 million over five years to cultivate soya and maize on a 100 hectare area of land.[71] Additionally, China Zhong Tai Senda Group International and its US$ 30 million investment plans aim to revive agricultural activity in Angola's Mucoso Irrigated Perimeter.[72] But between these two Angolan projects, the maize and soya cultivation should be highlighted for its anticipated role as a food security lever for China in response to trade tensions with its traditionally dominant grain source, the USA.[73][74]

Africa's agricultural exports represent 12% of the continent's total exports, a share that has declined from a peak of about 20% in 1988 (WITS, 2026). Traditionally, countries like the Netherlands, France, and Germany have been Africa's largest agricultural export destinations. However, between 2010-2024, China has regularly featured in the continent's top five agricultural commodity destinations. Between 2005-2025, Africa and China implemented the first phase of China's duty-free treatment of exports from African countries classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (Development Reimagined, 2024). During that period, the number of goods eligible for duty-free treatment grew from 190 to 8k products or 98% of exports from up to 33 African countries. This includes agricultural and agro-processed goods such as wine and roasted coffee. DR's analysis indicates that African duty-free good exports to China between 2005-2022 represented 99% of all goods exported, with 24 out of 27 African LDCs exporting 50% or more of their goods under the duty-free scheme.

From May 2026, Africa secured the same duty-free market access for exports to China for all 53 countries with diplomatic relations with China.[75] Additionally, recent efforts by Africa and China through FOCAC have resulted in harmonised sanitary and phytosanitary treatment of African agricultural goods exported to China, including coffee beans, chillies, cashews, and cocoa beans.[76][77] As a result, the often lengthy, bilateral negotiations needed to secure market access have been bypassed, supporting accelerated trade and working as a step towards greater African export volumes to China.

Guided by the high success rate of the first phase of duty-free export treatment, Africa's exports to China are likely to surge, particularly from recently included higher income countries like Egypt, Morocco, and South Africa along with their value-added goods. These growth prospects extend to Africa's food and agro-processed exports to China, positioning invested projects in this industry favourably. Furthermore, for commodities like maize and soya

69 Punch, (n.d). *Niger secures N1tn agro sector deal with Chinese firm*. Available **here**
70 K24 Digital, (n.d). *Ruto in China: 7 major deals sealed in Beijing so far*. Available **here**
71 Ecofin Agency, (n.d). *China's CITIC to invest $250 million in Angola's agriculture, expanding soya and maize production*. Available **here**
72 All Africa, (2024, October 1). *Angola: Chinese Group Plans to Invest 30 Million Dollars in Mucoso*. Available **here**
73 Ecofin Agency, (n.d). *China's CITIC to invest $250 million in Angola's agriculture, expanding soya and maize production*. Available **here**
74 Full Food and Agro-Processing project list in Table 5
75 Reuters, (2026, February 14). *China to implement zero tariffs on imports from 53 African countries*. Available **here**
76 Nyabiage, J, (2026, June 27). *Coffee, chillies and cashews: a new recipe to spice up China-Africa trade relations*. Available **here**
77 China-Africa SPS Cooperation Information Website, (2026, October 19). *GACC Announcement No. 147 of 2026 (on the Phytosanitary Requirements for the Import of Cocoa Beans from African Countries)*. Available **here**

that are pillars to China's food security, import country diversification will be an important strategy in China's latest five-year plan (USDA FAS, 2026). Accordingly, grain cultivation investments in countries like Angola may signal interest in similar food security initiatives, positioning traditionally strong African grain producers well for future food and agro-processing investments from China.

TABLE 5 **Complete List of Food and Agro-Processing Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Investment Announced	**Angola**	**30m**	China Zhong Tai Senda Group International
Investment Commitment Announced	**Angola**	**250m**	CITIC
Announced/Signed	**Kenya**	**30m**	Shandong Jialejia Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Technology Co.
Announced/Signed	**Kenya**	**400m**	Zonken Group/Biotech Corporation Ltd.
Investment Announced	**Nigeria**	**684m**	China Overseas Engineering Group Company Limited (COVEC); China Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC)
In Operation	**Uganda**	**11m**	Deshiburg Fruits International Co. Ltd (Kehong Group)
In Operation	**Zambia**	**600m**	Wonderful Group of Companies
Under Construction	**Zambia**	**1.4 bn**	Wonderful Group of Companies
Announced/Signed	**Zimbabwe**	**500m**	Broxmen Investments/ Broxmen Industrial Park

2.6 Heavy Machinery

2 projects

2 countries

US$ 16m disclosed investment

South Africa and Uganda host the two heavy machinery investments identified in DR's Africa-China industrial cooperation tracking. First, a US$ 16 million industrial park by SANY that will have an estimated annual production capacity of 1k excavators.[78] Next, the Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park hosts Shentang Machineries Manufacturing Uganda Ltd and its machinery, mechanical appliance, and prefabricated building facility.[79]

Africa is a net heavy machinery importer. Trade data indicates that the continent exports about US$ 2 billion worth of heavy machinery, but imports close to 51x the value of the same equipment.[80] Despite this heavily imbalanced dynamic, imports and at high volumes, will continue to be required to support implementation of Africa's

78 Xinhua, (2025, November 20). *China's SANY commissions industrial park in South Africa*. Available here
79 Rugunda, J., (2025). *Museveni commissions new maga factories at Sino-Uganda Industrial Park, pledges more jobs*. Available here
80 Estimate based on 2024 trade data, with African imports valued at US$ 79.3 billion. HS Codes include 8429, 8431, and 8479. Harvard Atlas of Economic Complexity, (n.d). *Explore*. Available here

infrastructure and industrial development priorities. However, FOCAC interventions may contribute to greater heavy equipment manufacturing capacity in African countries as well as improved technical skills regarding maintenance of such equipment. Together, the continuous need for heavy machinery replacement could be reduced, along with the associated cash outflows that could instead be invested in other continental priorities.

TABLE 6 Complete List of Heavy Machinery Projects

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
In Operation	**South Africa**	**16m**	SANY Group
Under Construction	**Uganda**	**-**	Shengtang Machinery Manufacturing Uganda Limited

2.7 Light Industrial Goods

6 projects

4 countries

US$ 34m disclosed investment

Six projects distributed across four countries fall under this category of investments identified. The sole, publicly disclosed FDI value comes from Egypt's US$ 34 million soda ash production project, the result of an agreement between Egypt's General Authority for the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) and the China National Chemical Engineering Company (CNCEC).[81] The remaining five projects area all East African, starting with Ethiopia's high-performance pipes and building material production facility by the LESSO Group.[82] Next, a plastic, water supply, drainage, and wire pipe manufacturing facility, also by LESSO. Lastly, three ventures based in the Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park. These will feature adhesive and glue production by Yong Tze Industry Ltd, building, construction, as well as interior design material manufacturing by Planetic Industrials-SMC Ltd, and a hardware manufacturing factory by Futian Hardware Uganda.[83]

Light industrial goods form direct and complementary linkages with industries such as construction, the generation, transmission and storage of energy, as well as metalworks. Like metalworks products, availability of locally produced water and drainage piping materials supports cost-effective industrial development and timely project delivery. Considering the high regional concentration of light industrial investments in favour of East Africa, there may be a case for maintaining such trends and coordinating sales and distribution of manufactured goods from this emerging East African hub.

81 Ahram Online, (n.d). *SCZone, CNCEC sign $34 mln deal for first phase of soda ash project*. Available here
82 LESSO Group, (n.d). 联塑埃塞俄比亚生产基地盛大开业！东非市场再添新引擎. Available here
83 Rugunda, J., (2025). *Museveni commissions new maga factories at Sino-Uganda Industrial Park, pledges more jobs*. Available here

TABLE 7 **Complete List of Light Industrial Good Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Agreement Signed	**Egypt**	**34m**	China National Chemical Engineering Group (CNCEC)
In Operation	**Ethiopia**	**-**	LESSO Group
In Operation	**Tanzania**	**-**	LESSO Group
Under Construction	**Uganda**	**-**	Young Tze Industry Ltd
Under Construction	**Uganda**	**-**	Planetic Industrials-SMC Limited
Under Construction	**Uganda**	**-**	Futian Hardware Uganda Limited

2.8 Logistics Infrastructure

2
projects

1
country

n/a
values not disclosed

Both investments in this category are hosted in Algeria, with FDI values not publicly disclosed. Signed during the 2025 Algerian-Chinese Business Forum, the National Railway Transport Company (SNTF) and GENERTEC CNTIC partnered for the design, engineering and production of rail transport equipment.[84] The second project emerged from the same forum, where Algeria's state-owned Madar Maritime Company (MMC) partnered with China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) for shipping container production.

By African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates, Africa's annual infrastructure finance gap stands at about US$ 150 billion.[85] Based on DR's 21-country infrastructure finance analysis, logistics-oriented finance needs represent 48.2% of annual finance needs.[86] Due to current infrastructure connectivity gaps, road networks form the country and sub-regional connections that rail infrastructure should, but also represent about 29% of good costs in the continent's trade compared to 7% outside Africa (UNCTAD, 2024).

Without accelerated investments in Africa's logistics infrastructure, countries will continue to lose investment opportunities because of high operating costs created by logistics industry infrastructure gaps.

84 Embassy of Algeria in Moscow, (n.d). *Algeria/China: signing of eight agreements for the implementation of industrial and agricultural investment projects*. Available **here**

85 African Development Bank, (2026, May). *The African Development Bank, Africa50, and African Leaders Explore Recycling Public Assets to Invest in Priority Infrastructure*. Available **here**

86 Sectors considered are road, rail, airport, and ports. Analysis: Development Reimagined, (2026). *Infrastructure*. Available **here**

TABLE 8 **Complete List of Logistics Infrastructure Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Announced/Signed	Algeria	-	GENERTEC CNTIC
Announced/Signed	Algeria	-	MADAR Maritime; China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC)

2.9 Medical and Pharmaceuticals

6 projects

5 countries

US$ 189m investment

The six investments in this category represent about US$ 189 million in FDI spread out across five countries. First, a US$ 15 million medical kit production project announcement by Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech.[87] Next, a US$ 20 million sanitary ware production plant by KEDA Ceramics in Kenya.[88] Third, a US$ 16.5 million medical consumables manufacturer Jiangsu Aishelun Medical Technology Group.[89] Fourth, a US$ 100 million drug manufacturing MoU between Nigeria's Fidson Healthcare and Jiangsu Aidea Pharmaceutical Co., PharmaBlock Sciences Nanjing Inc., as well as the China-Africa Development Fund.[90] Notably, antiretroviral drug production will have a central role in planned output, a development with positive public health implications for West Africa and the broader African continent. Nigeria's second project is also the Essence Group's first overseas venture, a pesticide manufacturing facility under its Essence Crop Science Nigeria FZE subsidiary.[91] Lastly, Zambia's first cholera vaccine manufacturing facility, the outcome of a US$ 37 million joint venture between Zambia's Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Jijia International Medical Technology Corporation.[92]

IN THE NEWS

"Zambia, China sign MoU to establish African nation's 1st cholera vaccine plant"

Anadolu Agency

From an African perspective, most countries do not meet health expenditure commitments. Following the 2001 Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Infectious Diseases, AU member states pledged to allocate at least 15% of their annual budgets on health sector improvements (AU, 2001). However, World Bank data highlights that on average, countries spend about 5% (World Bank, 2026a). Furthermore, despite an AU-led push in 2007 for member states to dedicate at least 1% of GDP each year to research and development (R&D), an important foundation for medical and pharmaceutical industry innovation, the continental average sits at about 0.45%

87 Ethiopian News Agency, (n.d). *Chinese Guangzhou Wondo Biotech to Invest in Ethiopia's Industrial Park*. Available here
88 Mjengo Hub, (n.d). *New $20 million factory in Kisumu begins production of sanitary ware*. Available here
89 Ecofin Agency, (n.d). *China's Jiangsu Aishelun breaks ground on Morocco medical consumables plant*. Available here
90 Tekedia, (n.d). *Nigeria's largest drugmaker Fidson Healthcare partners with Chinese firms to build $100 million drug plant*. Available here
91 Essence Group, (2026). *Essence Group Nigeria Factory Commences Operations, Accelerating Localized Agricultural Solutions in Africa*. Available here
92 Anadolu Agency, (n.d). *Zambia, China sign MoU to establish African nation's 1st cholera vaccine plant*. Available here

nearly 20 years later (Africa CDC, 2026). China, on the other hand, spends about 6x more than Africa on its healthcare industry, and about 3% of GDP on its own R&D (World Bank, 2026b).[93]

However, the same under-investments in Africa's medical and pharmaceutical industries are also manufacturing opportunities that would strengthen public health as well as broader economic development. By Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention estimates, if AU member states met their health and R&D commitments, an additional US$ 668 billion in GDP would be generated, yielding about US$ 137 per US$ 1 invested (Africa CDC, 2026). Additionally, about 5 million jobs could be created, an outcome that would improve household level capacities to manage and prevent disease outbreaks.

TABLE 9 **Complete List of Medical and Pharmaceutical Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Investment Commitment Announced	**Ethiopia**	**15m**	Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech
In Operation	**Kenya**	**20m**	KEDA Ceramics
Under Construction	**Morocco**	**17m**	Jiangsu Aishelun Medical Technology Group
Strategic Cooperation Memorandum Signed	**Nigeria**	**100m**	Jiangsu Aidea Pharma; Nanjing PharmaBlock
In Operation	**Nigeria**	**-**	Jiangsu Aijin Group/Essence Crop Science (Nanjing Essence Fine-Chemical)
Announced/Signed	**Zambia**	**37m**	Jijia International Medical Technology

2.10 Metalworks

7 projects | **5** countries | **about US$ 3bn** investment

Across five countries, seven projects worth about US$ 3 billion in FDI were identified. In Algeria, Jingdong Steel's US$ 500 million steel plant aims to produce steel sheets and pipes for the country's building and public works sector. In addition to the 3.1k direct and indirect jobs expected to be created, 80% of the facility's raw materials will be sourced within Algeria. In Kenya's Machakos county, Rongtai Steel invested US$ 100 million to expand its reinforced steel bar and concrete reinforcement product manufacturing base.[94] Still in East Africa but with no investment figure disclosed, Myno Technology's Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park factory will focus on metal, steel, and structural fabrication components.[95] Also in Uganda, a US$ 100 million reinforcement bar and wire rod manufactur-

93 Wang, S., (2026, September 30). *China's R&D spending hits record 2.8% of GDP, beating OECD average for the first time.* Available here
94 Switch Media Kenya, (n.d). *Kenya secures KSh126 billion in new Chinese investments during Ruto visit*. Available here
95 Rugunda, J., (2025). *Museveni commissions new maga factories at Sino-Uganda Industrial Park, pledges more jobs*. Available here

ing plant by Unisteel, becoming the largest integrated steel mill in East Africa.[96] In Southern Africa, Zambia secured a US$ 11 million investment from the Jiangxi Copper Group for an oxygen-free copper rod and low-voltage wire and cable production facility.[97] Lastly, Zimbabwe's US$ 2 billion in FDI comes from Dinson Iron and Steel's two phase investments. The first a corrugated reinforcement bar production plant, and a second phase investment to expand its production capacity.[98]

In the last decade, construction has been the leading investment destination of Africa-China FDI (CARI, 2026a). Without local production of materials like reinforcement bars, electrical cables, and wire rods, the continent's growing construction industry would rely more heavily on imports which range from US$ 3 billion-US$ 4 billion per year (Harvard Growth Lab, 2026). Therefore, China's metalworks investments across Africa are a pillar that saves construction projects time and money that would otherwise be spent managing quality assurance from international suppliers, as well as various logistical bottlenecks that come with importing goods. Additionally, in partnership with national government, opportunities emerge to guarantee that local job creation is prioritised at manufacturing plants, while raw material procurement policies balance competitive bidding with use of local resources to promote broader supply chain participation.

TABLE 10 Complete List of Metalworks Projects

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Announced/Signed	**Algeria**	**500m**	Jingdong Steel
Announced/Signed	**Kenya**	**100m**	Rongtai Steel Co. Ltd.
Ground-Broken	**Uganda**	**-**	Myno Technology Co. Ltd
In Operation	**Uganda**	**100m**	Unisteel Investments (U) Ltd
In Operation	**Zambia**	**11m**	Jiangxi Copper Group
In Operation	**Zimbabwe**	**2 bn**	Tsingshan Holding Group (Dinson Iron and Steel Company (Pvt) Ltd)
Announced/Signed	**Zimbabwe**	**500m**	Tsingshan Holding Group (Dinson Iron and Steel Company)

2.11 Paper and Packaging

2 projects | **2** countries | **US$ 60m** disclosed investment

The two investments under this category were secured by Egypt and Uganda, with the former having the sole publicly disclosed FDI value of US$ 60 million. Through its Suez Canal Economic Zone investment, Kinlead Innovat-

96 Unisteel Uganda, (n.d). *Presidential Opening*. Available here
97 Shanghai Metals Market, (n.d). *Jiangxi Copper Group's First Overseas Factory in Zambia Commences Full Production*. Available here

ive Materials will manufacture products such as biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) films, stretch films, and self-adhesive BOPP cello tapes. In terms of output, 100% of goods produced will be exported to global markets.[99] Lastly, the Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park will host Timber Paper Industry Uganda Co's timber paper factory.[100]

Africa's packaging industry is estimated to be worth US$ 47.2 billion and is projected to realise an annual growth rate of 4.4% between 2025-2031 to reach about US$ 59 billion in value (Mordor Intelligence, 2026). Over a 2–4-year outlook, similar drivers outlined in the consumer electronics/FMCG analysis are projected to boost Africa's paper and packaging industry growth. Drivers include population growth and higher FMCG that comes with it, the expansion of e-commerce packaging needs, as well as returnable transit packaging needs associated with growing AfCFTA implementation. Although Africa represents about 11% of the global paper and packaging industry market, this share could expand through scaled-up, sustainable Africa-China cooperation that balances market needs with environmental and ecological preservation.[101]

TABLE 11 **Complete List of Paper and Packaging Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Announced/Signed	**Egypt**	**60m**	Zhejiang Kinlead Innovative Materials Co., Ltd.
In Operation	**Uganda**	**-**	Timber Paper Industry Uganda Co. / Forest Paper (Uganda) Ltd

2.12 Telecoms/Digital

1 project

1 country

US$ 50m investment

Through a US$ 50 million investment in Kenya's Murang'a County, Anhui Jiubao will establish a smart traffic technology factory.[102] In addition to the estimated 5k jobs the investment will create, distribution of the factory's output will be linked to Kenya's primary transport corridors.

To meet 2030 UNDDGs, DR's 21 country analysis estimates that about US$ 17 billion will need to be invested annually in African broadband, mobile, and telephone infrastructure (Development Reimagined, 2026a). On the one hand, these three infrastructure sub-sectors represent 7.2% of overall annual infrastructure finance needs, a relatively lower share compared to sub-sectors such as roads, railways, and electricity infrastructure. However, significant inequalities underpin Africa's telecommunication/digital landscape. First, although 85% of Africans are estimated to have a baseline access of 3G mobile broadband services, 60% have 4G access, while 11% have 5G access.[103]

98 Zimbabwe Situation, (n.d). *Zimbabwe reclaims steel crown: US$500m investment for Manhize Steel Plant*. Available **here**
99 SCZONE, (2025). *With investments worth $60 million (EGP 3 billion), SCZONE Chairman signs contract with Chinese company Kinlead in Qantara West Industrial Zone*. Available **here**
100 Xinhua Silk Road, (n.d). *Chinese investment drives industrial transformation: Ugandan president*. Available **here**
101 Market size comparison based on 2025 Mordor Intelligence global industry estimates of US$ 417.3 billion. Mordor Intelligence, (n.d). *Paper and Paperboard Packaging Market Size, Share, and Growth*. Available **here**
102 K24 Digital, (n.d). *Ruto in China: 7 major deals sealed in Beijing so far*. Available **here**; Mordor Intelligence, (n.d). *Africa Packaging Market*. Available **here**
103 Zavazava, C. L., (2024, December 18). *Connectivity for everyone is key to Africa's growth and prosperity*. Available **here**

Compared to high income countries and their estimated 85% 5G access, and a global average of 55%, Africa lags behind the world's fastest and most innovative wireless internet standards.[104] As a result, the continent continues to fall behind on access to the latest digital innovations that may require the fastest and most developed internet standards like 5G. A second inequality in Africa's telecommunication and digital landscape is the uneven female-male split, where approximately 31% of females are connected to the internet, while about 43% of males are connected. Both genders undoubtedly require greater internet connections, but continuation of a lag skewed against females amplifies existing gender-based disparities across Africa. Therefore, Africa-China telecommunication and digital investments should be amplified, but investment should also embed equitable principles to prevent technological divides within African countries.

TABLE 12 **Complete List of Telecoms/Digital Projects**

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
Announced/Signed	**Kenya**	**50m**	Anhui Jiubao Electronic Technology Co.

2.13 Textiles and Apparel

18 projects

6 countries

US$ 1.6bn investment

Across six countries, US$ 1.6 billion was invested in textiles and apparels. 76% of FDI was concentrated in Egypt, where 11 out of the 18 projects were identified, and were valued at US$ 1.2 billion. By project value, leading projects include a US$ 385 million yarn and garment manufacturing factory investment by the world's leading dyed fabric and shirt producer, the Lutai Group, a US$ 280 million polyester manufacturing plant by Xinfengming Group, and a US$ 130 million processed and garment fabric hub by the EVERFAR Textile Egypt.[105][106][107] However, a more notable trend in Egypt's textile and apparel investments from Chinese firms is a strong export focus in five projects, often targeting 80% or more of output for global markets. This includes a US$ 49 million towel production plant by the Sunvim Group that aims to mitigate supply chain disruptions be establishing a production in Egypt where raw materials can be sourced directly, while also managing policy fluctuations in key export markets like the United States of America (USA) by supplying goods from outside China.[108][109]

IN THE NEWS

"Shoe-making factory in Mbale to employ 3,000 youth"

Daily Monitor, Uganda

104 International Telecommunication Union, (2025, November 17). *Global number of Internet users increases, but disparities deepen key digital divides.* Available here
105 Xinfengming Group Co., Ltd., (2025, December 13). *Overseas Investment Announcement*. Available here
106 Egypt Today, (n.d). *Lutai Group to establish its first factory in Egypt with $385M investments*. Available here
107 SCZONE, (n.d). *With investments of $130 million, SCZONE signs contract with China's EVERFAR for major textile and garment facility in Qantara West Industrial Zone*. Available here
108 Sina Finance, (n.d). 孚日股份首个海外基地获备案：战略布局落子埃及，重塑全球竞争力. Available here
109 Full Egypt project list included in Table 13

Uganda stands-out as the next most popular textile and apparel investment destination with its three projects. First, in the form of a US$ 50 million, 50k shoe per day factory by Hailan Industries Limited that aims to employ close to 3k youth in Uganda.[110] Next, a denim and garment factory as well as an additional garment factory by Xinlon Textile and Garment Technology Aofan Garments respectively.[111] Both garment ventures are based at the Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park, and had no publicly disclosed investment values stated at the time that factory groundwork was laid. The remaining four projects outside of Egypt and Uganda were distributed across the continent. In Morocco, a US$ 230 million textile sector investment from the Sunrise Group aims to employ 7k direct and 1.5k indirect jobs through two industrial units.[112] In Zambia, a US$ 100 million investment from the Mulungushi Textiles Joint Venture (ZCMT-JV) aims to revive the country's textile industry while creating 500 direct and indirect jobs.[113] The partnership is backed by Qingdao General Textiles Corporation and its 66% stake in the joint venture, as well as the government of Zambia which holds the remaining 34% share.

In Kenya, through a US$ 20 million investment partnership between the Chongqing Shangcheng Apparel and Pengfeng Investments, the country will realise the establishment of textile, garment, and solar power production plants.[114] A further US$ 300 million is should also be invested by this partnership over a 10-year period. Lastly, Ghana's 16 production line, 500k per month garment factory by Jiudine S&T Co., Ltd.[115] Through its operations in the Bright Industrial Free Zone, the textile venture is well positioned to target export markets within Africa, as well as other regions outside the continent.

Like Africa's imbalanced consumer electronics/FMCG industry structure, Africa exports about US$ 3 billion worth of apparel and home textiles, but imports US$ 8 billion of the same goods, despite possessing the required raw materials for value-added production (ICAC, n.d.). In addition to the downside reflected in the continent's apparel and home textile trade deficit, Africa also loses about 15x in value by trading primary commodities like cotton and not higher value finished goods like clothing. An additional challenge comes in the form of market access, where traditional export destinations for African textiles and apparel like Europe may soon adopt conditional market access under the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).[116] Such conditional market access would mirror the USA's conditional treatment of African goods under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).[117] On the other hand, Africa's market access to China remains largely unhindered, particularly considering the May 2026 zero tariff treatment of the continent's exports to China.[118]

Looking ahead, by investing in textile and apparel manufacturing directly where the raw materials are sourced, both the host African country and incoming investors gain from the value-added economic partnerships created.

110 Daily Monitor, (n.d). *Shoe-making factory in Mbale to employ 3,000 youth*. Available **here**
111 Rugunda, J., (2025). *Museveni commissions new maga factories at Sino-Uganda Industrial Park, pledges more jobs*. Available **here**
112 Maroc.ma, (n.d). *Morocco Seals $230 Million Investment Deal with China's Sunrise Group*. Available **here**
113 Kohan Textile Journal, (n.d). *Zambia-China Mulungushi Joint Venture on Track*. Available **here**
114 K24 Digital, (n.d). *Ruto in China: 7 major deals sealed in Beijing so far*. Available **here**
115 Jiudine Apparel, (n.d). *About Us*. Available **here**
116 World Textiles Journal, (2026, August 13). *France Opens CBAM Debate Over 180 Billion EU Textile Imports*. Available **here**
117 Eguegu, O., (2023, December 4). *Expert View: AGOA Isn't The Political Leverage Washington Thinks It Is*. Available **here**
118 Market access in this context is applicable to the 53 African countries with diplomatic relations with China.

TABLE 13 Complete List of Textiles and Apparel Projects

Project Development Stage	Country	Project's Estimated US$ Investment Value	Chinese Stakeholder(s)
In Operation	**Egypt**	**60m**	Zhejiang Cady (through subsidary Egypt Cady Textile)
Announced/ Signed	**Egypt**	**10m**	Jiangsu Guotai International Group
Announced/ Signed	**Egypt**	**49m**	Sunvim Group
Announced/ Signed	**Egypt**	**280m**	Xinfengming Group
Announced/ Signed	**Egypt**	**100m**	Jasun Group
Under Construction	**Egypt**	**40m**	Di Seta
Announced/ Signed	**Egypt**	**130m**	EVERFAR
Investment Announced	**Egypt**	**385m**	Lutai Group
Agreement Signed	**Egypt**	**60m**	Kingdom Holdings
Agreement Signed	**Egypt**	**53m**	Changzhou East Noah Printing and Dyeing Co. Ltd; Changzhou Golden Spring Textile Co., Ltd
Agreement Signed	**Egypt**	**75m**	Unnamed consortium of Chinese investors
In Operation	**Ghana**	**-**	Jiudine Ghana Corporation Ltd (wholly Chinese-owned)
Announced/ Signed	**Kenya**	**20m**	Chongqing Shangcheng Apparel Group (with Pengfeng Investment)
In Operation (partly)	**Morocco**	**230m**	Sunrise Group
In Operation	**Uganda**	**50m**	Hailan Industries Limited
In Operation	**Uganda**	**-**	Xinlon Textile and Garment Technology Co., Ltd.
Under Construction	**Uganda**	**-**	Aofan Garments Company Ltd
Under Construction	**Zambia**	**100m *(from both Zambia government and China)***	Mulungushi Textiles Joint Venture (ZCMT-JV) - JV between Zambian govt (34%) and Qingdao General Textiles Corporation (66%)



03

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

What the projects show, and what African governments, Chinese stakeholders and international partners can do

Broad-based investment, anchored by industrial zones and repeat investors, with new markets beginning to open

The introduction to this report set out two reasons why the period since FOCAC 9 matters. The first is Africa's own ambition: through Agenda 2063, the AfCFTA and their national development plans, African governments have set out to build regional industrialisation hubs linked to global value chains, and to reverse a trend in which the continent's share of global manufacturing output has fallen from about 3% in the 1970s to less than 2% today, at a time when 10 to 12 million young people enter Africa's workforce each year. The second is a change in the position of Chinese firms, for which excess capacity and intense price competition in China's domestic market, rising trade barriers in other export markets, and China's extension of duty-free access to all 53 African countries with which it has diplomatic relations have together increased the incentives to manufacture abroad, so that African countries are now in a position to compete for investment that might previously have stayed in China or moved to other emerging economies.

Some of what the projects show is consistent with earlier patterns of Chinese investment in Africa: the lead of construction materials by value is in line with CARI data showing that construction was the largest destination of Chinese FDI in Africa between 2013 and 2024 (CARI, 2026b), and the concentration of projects in Egypt (23 projects), Uganda (14) and Kenya (12) reflects the role of established industrial zones and of countries that already host a significant stock of Chinese investment. Other features are newer: clean energy manufacturing now includes solar cells and modules, battery components, wind turbine blades and electrolysers in Egypt, Kenya, Morocco and South Africa; medical and pharmaceutical projects include Zambia's first cholera vaccine manufacturing facility and antiretroviral drug production in Nigeria; several projects were agreed with African public partners holding equity, including Niger State (10%), the Government of Zambia (34%) and ZCCM-IH (45%); several existing African plants, including the Jbel Oust cement plant in Tunisia and Kwikot in South Africa, attracted new Chinese owners; and, in May 2026, Deshiburg Fruits International, a Chinese-owned agro-processor in Uganda, shipped its first consignment of canned pineapples to China, the only example identified in this report of a Chinese-invested African manufacturer exporting to China.[119]

The findings below should be read against both of these starting points. They show that African countries have begun to attract manufacturing investment from China on a scale, and across a range of industries, that is consistent with their ambition to become manufacturing hubs, and that several of the drivers of Chinese offshoring identified in the introduction can be seen in the projects tracked, but also that the terms of this investment, including local sourcing, technology transfer and access to the Chinese market for African manufactured goods, will determine whether it moves African countries closer to that ambition. Each of the four findings therefore closes by setting out what it means for Africa's manufacturing ambitions, and these implications are carried into the recommendations in Section 3.5.

119 FreshPlaza, (2026, May 15). *Uganda launches first processed pineapple exports to China*. Available **here**; see also Agaba, N., (2026, May 15). *Uganda Flags off Export of High-Quality Canned Pineapples to China*, Kampala Post. Available **here**; and Xinhua, (2026, May 15). Available **here**.

FOUR KEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

01

Broad-based investment

13

INDUSTRIES

Chinese investment spans 13 manufacturing industries, although four categories account for 69 of the 113 projects.

02

Zones anchor investment

37

PROJECTS IN EGYPT AND UGANDA

Established zones such as TEDA Suez and the Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park are attracting clusters of factories.

03

Markets differ by industry

4

MARKET ORIENTATIONS

Domestic, regional and international export markets, and, emerging, exports to China.

04

Investors are staying

Repeat

INVESTORS EXPANDING

Firms such as LESSO, Huaxin Cement and KEDA are expanding across several African countries.

3.1 African countries are attracting Chinese industrial investment across a diverse range of manufacturing activities, despite concentration in several key sectors

DR's dataset points to a broad range of new manufacturing activities that African countries have attracted from Chinese firms, spanning both established industries and emerging sectors. The largest categories by project count (Figure 5) are:

- Automotive and EVs (21 projects, or 19%),
- Bricks, ceramics, cement and glass (20, 18%),
- Textiles and apparel (18, 16%), and
- Consumer electronics/FMCG (10, 9%)

Together, these four categories represent 69 of all projects or about 62% of DR's dataset. Clean energy/batteries (nine projects, 8%) as well as food and agro-processing (nine, 8%) are also notable areas of investment activity.

This distribution indicates that the Chinese industrial investment African countries are attracting is not confined to a narrow set of sectors or driven solely by the availability of natural resources. It encompasses foundational manufacturing activities, including construction materials, textiles, food processing and consumer goods, which can support domestic production, meet growing consumer demand and supply inputs to other parts of the economy. At the same time, the presence of automotive and EV manufacturing, battery production and other clean-energy-related industries points to growing engagement in sectors associated with the global energy transition and the restructuring of international supply chains.

The data gathered for this report allow some, though not all, of the possible drivers behind this distribution to be distinguished. First, there is evidence that conditions in China's domestic market are encouraging firms to invest abroad: as noted in Section 2.2, Huaxin Cement has linked its plan to quadruple production capacity outside China to a slowing domestic market, and several of the industries in which projects were recorded, including EVs, batteries, solar products and steel, are among those most affected by what Chinese policymakers and commentators describe as "involution", meaning excess capacity and price competition that compress margins at home.[120] Second, there is evidence that trade policy in third markets matters: as noted in Section 2.13, the Sunvim Group intends its towel plant in Egypt to help it manage policy fluctuations in key export markets such as the USA by supplying

120 Xie, Y., (2025, October 24). *An Anatomy of Industrial Involution in China*, RAND (originally published in the Financial Times). Available here.

them from outside China, five Egyptian textile projects plan to export 80% or more of their output, and Chinese EV manufacturers have faced countervailing duties of up to 35.3% in the European Union since October 2024.[121] Third, and most importantly, there is evidence that African governments' own efforts to promote these industries directly to Chinese firms are bearing fruit: 16 of the 113 projects were either signed at business and investment forums held with African governments, such as the 2025 Algeria-China Business Forum and the Arise IIP–Kenya investment forum attended by President Ruto, or agreed with African national, state or municipal public partners, such as SCZone in Egypt, Algeria's national railway company SNTF, Ethiopia's Industrial Parks Development Corporation, the Enugu, Niger and Cross River state governments in Nigeria, a municipality in Mpumalanga, and Zambia's Industrial Development Corporation, Ministry of Defence and ZCCM-IH. What the data cannot show is the relative weight of these drivers for individual firms, or whether firms are also responding to accusations that China is seeking to dominate global manufacturing, since company announcements rarely state such motives; interviews with investors would be needed to answer that question, and this is an area for further research.

The range of activities also suggests that Chinese manufacturing investment in Africa can intersect with different stages and priorities of industrial development across the continent. Countries with growing domestic markets may seek to attract producers of construction materials and consumer goods, while those with established industrial infrastructure, export access or relevant capabilities may be better positioned to participate in textile, automotive or clean-energy supply chains. Similarly, countries with agricultural production potential may find opportunities in food and agro-processing. These pathways are not mutually exclusive, and countries should invest in developing complementary manufacturing activities over time.

For African countries, this diversity creates a range of opportunities to deepen industrial cooperation with China, building on an existing stock of Chinese FDI in Africa estimated by UNCTAD at about US$ 42 billion, and on the efforts that many African governments have already made to attract it through industrial zones, investment promotion and engagement through FOCAC (UNCTAD, 2025). Still, it is worth noting that, attracting investment that contributes to long-term industrial development will depend on more than identifying an attractive sector. National industrial strategies need to be matched by the infrastructure, skills, regulatory environment, and supplier capabilities required to support investment and strengthen domestic linkages. A clear understanding of these priorities can help African governments identify where Chinese investment aligns with national development objectives, and engage investors around the types of production capacity, technology and value addition they seek to develop.

In relation to Africa's ambition to become a global manufacturing hub, the breadth of this investment matters because hubs are built on clusters of related industries rather than on single factories, and the presence of automotive, clean energy and pharmaceutical manufacturing alongside construction materials, textiles and food processing suggests that several African countries now have the beginnings of the diversified industrial base on which such hubs depend.

3.2 African countries' established industrial zones are anchoring further manufacturing investment from China

The ability of certain African countries to attract several Chinese manufacturing projects appears to be reinforced by the presence of established industrial zones and the investment ecosystems that have developed around them. Egypt and Uganda, the two countries with the highest numbers of recorded projects in the dataset, offer notable

121 European Commission, (2024, October 29). *EU imposes duties on unfairly subsidised electric vehicles from China while discussions on price undertakings continue* (press release IP/24/5589). Available **here**.

examples through the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone and the Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park.

In both cases, the zones are not simply sites waiting for investors to arrive, but are actively promoted to firms in China by their developers and by African host-government agencies. The TEDA Suez zone is operated by Egypt-TEDA SEZone Development Company and developed with TEDA Investment Holding and China-Africa TEDA Investment Co., Ltd., which are linked to the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (TEDA) in China; by the end of 2025, the zone hosted nearly 200 companies, with over US$ 3.8 billion of investment and around 10,000 jobs, and it received more than 500 business delegations in 2025 alone.[122] Egypt's SCZone has complemented this with its own investment promotion in China: in July 2025, its Chairman concluded a roadshow that included investment seminars in several Chinese provinces and meetings with TEDA Investment Holding in Tianjin, during which six textile and garment contracts worth US$ 118.1 million were signed in Nanjing and Hangzhou, with 90% of their output expected to be exported.[123] The Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park follows a different model. It was developed by Tian Tang Group, a Chinese-owned private company headquartered in Shenzhen,[124] whose Chairman, Paul Zhang, proposed to the Government of Uganda that the group would bring investors from China, and which offers incoming firms free support with business registration, certification, customs clearance, tax compliance and warehousing; by September 2024, the park hosted more than 40 factories and over 5,000 workers, most of them young Ugandans,[125] and by August 2025 it employed around 10,000 workers daily in companies producing smartphones, televisions, textiles and steel.[126] The park's location also works in its favour: Mbale serves a populous region of eastern Uganda that provides both labour and markets, lies close to the border with Kenya, and has a well-developed transport network through which goods can be distributed to the rest of East Africa and beyond. Some of these advantages are geographical and would be hard to replicate, but the combination of a developer with its own base in China, support services for incoming firms, and access to labour, markets and regional transport links offers lessons for other African countries seeking to attract manufacturing investment. The developers of these zones, and the networks they maintain with firms and local governments in China, therefore appear to play an important role in channelling Chinese investment towards particular African locations, alongside the incentives offered by host governments.

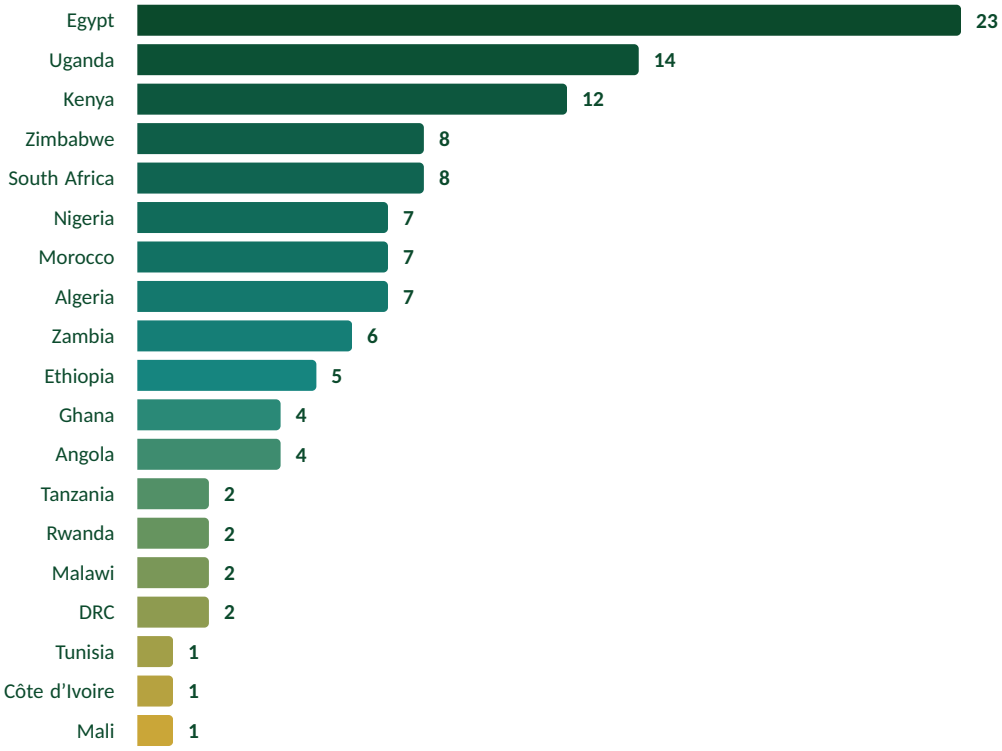


Ain Sokhna Industrial Zone, Egypt, part of the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) in which the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone is located. Photo: Abdelrhman 1990, September 2026, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

122 Xinhua, via Hellenic Shipping News, (2026). *10 years on, Suez flagship project becomes model for Global South partnership*. Available **here**.
123 General Authority for the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone), (2025, July 25). *SCZONE Chairman Concludes China Roadshow with Visit to Tianjin Economic Area and Port to Explore Strategic Cooperation*. Available **here**.
124 Tiantang Group, (n.d.). *Contact us*. Available **here**.
125 The Uganda Standard, (2024, September 30). *Mbale Sino Industrial Park boosts Uganda's local economy*. Available **here**.
126 Sseruwagi, N. K., (2025, August 26). *Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park: Revolutionising Uganda's Manufacturing Sector*, Sino-Uganda Research Centre. Available **here**.

The concentration of factories and industrial activities within these zones can create advantages beyond the provision of industrial land and basic infrastructure. Shared facilities, utilities, logistics services and business networks can reduce the costs and uncertainties associated with establishing manufacturing operations. More importantly, where companies operate in complementary subsectors, their proximity can create opportunities for linkages along the value chain. Manufacturers may be able to source intermediate inputs from other businesses within the same zone, while supplying materials or components to downstream producers. Over time, this can support the development of more integrated industrial ecosystems, increasing the potential for host countries to capture a wider range of manufacturing activities rather than attracting isolated production facilities. The nature of these industrial platforms varies. Some accommodate companies across a diverse range of sectors, while others may develop a stronger concentration in particular industries or related activities. Nevertheless, they share the potential to lower entry barriers for new investors and generate agglomeration effects.

FIGURE 6 **Number of Newly Announced Chinese Investment Projects in Africa since FOCAC 2024 by Country**



This suggests that the geographical distribution of Chinese manufacturing investment is not determined solely by market size, natural resource availability or an individual country's investment incentives. The presence of established industrial platforms can also influence investment decisions, as existing infrastructure and business networks make certain locations more attractive to subsequent manufacturers. For African countries, this highlights the importance of developing industrial zones not simply as sites for attracting individual factories, but as long-term platforms for building interconnected manufacturing ecosystems, strengthening local supplier linkages and expanding domestic productive capacity.

Industrial zones are also where Africa's manufacturing ambitions and the offshoring decisions of Chinese firms meet most directly, since a firm deciding whether to move production away from an increasingly competitive domestic market is more likely to choose a location where infrastructure, suppliers and other manufacturers are already in place, which gives African governments that invest in such zones, and that promote them directly to firms in China, an advantage in competing for that investment.

3.3 Different market orientations shape the role of African countries as manufacturing bases

DR's data highlights different market orientations among Chinese manufacturing investments in Africa, reflecting how companies intend to use their African production facilities and the markets they seek to serve. Broadly, four orientations can be identified, the fourth of which is only beginning to emerge:

- **Domestic market-seeking:** establishing production facilities to serve local consumers and substitute for imported manufactured products.
- **Regional market-seeking** using one African country as a production and distribution base to serve both its domestic market and neighbouring African economies.
- **International export-seeking:** using African production facilities to access markets beyond the continent, particularly in Europe and the United States.
- **Export to China:** using African production facilities to supply the Chinese market, to which all 53 African countries with diplomatic relations with China have had duty-free access since May 2026. DR identified one such project, Deshiburg Fruits International's pineapple canning plant in Uganda, which shipped its first 104 tonnes of canned pineapples to China in May 2026.

These orientations are not mutually exclusive and can coexist within the same sector, or even within an individual company's production strategies. Nevertheless, the patterns observed across the dataset help explain why certain manufacturing activities are concentrated in particular countries, while others are more geographically dispersed.

FIGURE 7 Market Orientations of Newly Announced Chinese Investment in Africa since FOCAC 2024, with Examples



Orientations can overlap within a sector or a single company's strategy

Egypt's textile and apparel sector provides a particularly clear example of international export-oriented manufacturing. Several Chinese-invested projects recorded in DR's dataset have explicit export strategies, with some planning to export the majority or entirety of their output to international markets, particularly the United States and Europe. This reflects Egypt's attractiveness as a production base connected to international textile and apparel value chains, supported by its geographical position, established textile industry, industrial infrastructure and pref-

erential trade arrangements. However, it is important to distinguish between different stages of textile production. Not all textile investments in Egypt are necessarily export-oriented: some facilities may supply domestic garment manufacturers or regional buyers, while upstream fibre and fabric production can serve both local downstream factories and international supply chains. The sector therefore illustrates how a single manufacturing location can support multiple forms of market integration, depending on the product, production stage and a company's commercial strategy.

By contrast, a substantial proportion of investments in construction materials appear to be driven primarily by opportunities in domestic and regional markets. Cement plants, ceramic tile factories, glass manufacturing facilities and steel production are generally located closer to major construction and infrastructure markets. The economics of these products, many of which are bulky and costly to transport over long distances, make local production commercially attractive. Countries including Uganda, Malawi, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Kenya have consequently attracted new or expanded production capacity from Chinese cement and ceramic manufacturers. These facilities can serve domestic demand associated with urbanisation, housing and infrastructure development, while some also have the potential to supply neighbouring markets. Consumer goods and other light manufacturing projects demonstrate a similar market-seeking rationale. Production of everyday goods can serve local consumption, reduce reliance on imports and, depending on production scale and location, support distribution into neighbouring economies.

Other sectors display a more mixed orientation, combining domestic market opportunities with regional and international supply-chain integration. Clean energy manufacturing and automotive manufactures are notable examples. For projects in these two sectors, Morocco illustrates how African production facilities can serve the development of domestic and regional energy industries while also connecting to international clean energy and EV supply chains. Automotive manufacturing similarly combines opportunities for local vehicle assembly and import substitution with the potential to supply wider regional markets and participate in international automotive value chains.

The fourth orientation, export to China, is so far the least developed, but the Deshiburg shipment shows that it is possible. It is significant because it suggests that Chinese-invested manufacturing in Africa can serve the Chinese market as well as African, European and American markets, at a time when access to the United States and Europe has become less predictable for African exporters, as discussed in Section 2.13 in relation to CBAM and AGOA, and when China's duty-free treatment covers all 53 African countries with diplomatic relations with China. Making exports of processed and manufactured goods to China an explicit objective of Africa-China industrial cooperation, including through FOCAC 10, would help ensure that this first shipment becomes the beginning of a broader trend.

These different market orientations have implications for how manufacturing investment contributes to African industrial development. Domestic and regional market-oriented production can support import substitution, strengthen local supply capacity, and reduce dependence on imported manufactured goods. Export-oriented investment can generate foreign exchange, connect African producers to global value chains and potentially expand access to international markets. Neither model is inherently preferable; their contribution to industrial development depends on the extent of local value addition, the development of domestic supplier linkages, employment and skills creation, as well as technology transfer.

Importantly, the different orientations are not mutually exclusive. A facility initially established to serve domestic demand may expand into neighbouring markets, while an international export-seeking factory can generate do-

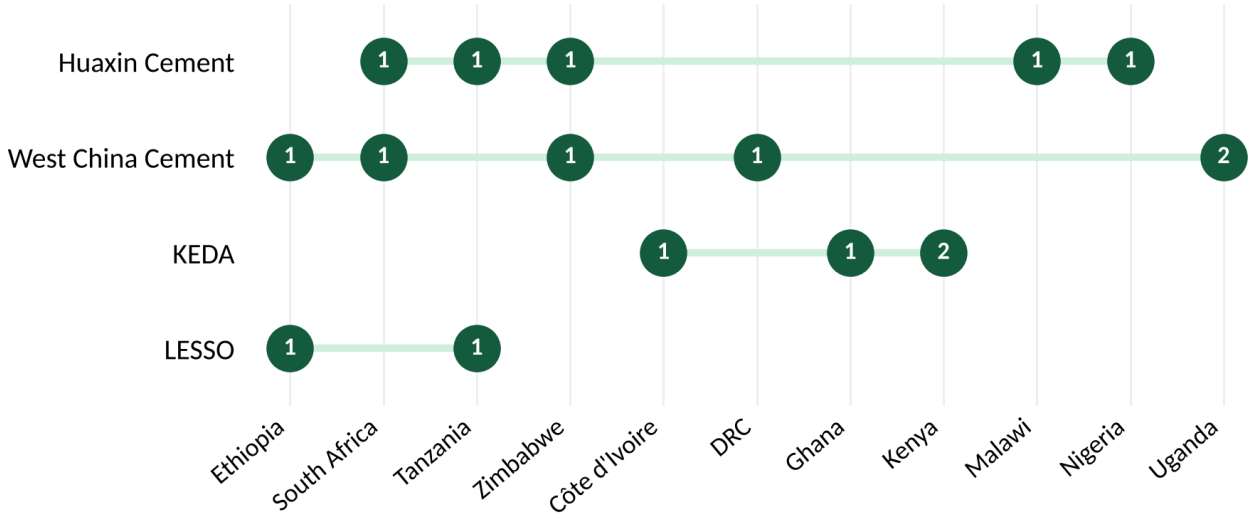
mestic industrial linkages through its demand for raw materials, intermediate inputs, logistics, and supporting services. The opportunity for African countries is therefore not simply to attract investment targeting one market, but to ensure that manufacturing activities, regardless of their initial commercial orientation, contribute to broader domestic productive capacity and stronger regional industrial integration.

Market orientation is also where the geopolitical drivers discussed in the introduction are most visible: export-oriented textile and apparel projects in Egypt, and the stated intention of some Chinese firms to supply the United States and Europe from outside China, suggest that African production is being used in part to manage trade barriers elsewhere, while China's duty-free access for African goods creates an opportunity, so far barely used, for Chinese-invested African factories to supply the Chinese market itself, which would move African countries closer to their ambition of exporting manufactured goods rather than raw materials.

3.4 African countries are retaining existing investors, who are expanding their manufacturing footprint across the continent

Another notable feature is that African countries are retaining Chinese companies that are building on their existing investments to expand their manufacturing footprint across the continent. Companies such as LESSO, Huaxin Cement, West China Cement, Wonderful Group and KEDA Industrial Group have established or pursued projects in multiple African countries, in some cases extending production within the same sub-sector and in others, broadening their activities into related manufacturing categories. This suggests that Chinese manufacturing engagement is not solely characterised by individual projects entering African markets independently. For some companies, it is becoming a cumulative process in which experience, market knowledge, distribution networks, and operational capabilities developed through earlier investments can support expansion into new markets.

FIGURE 8 Chinese Investors with Projects in More than One African Country since FOCAC 2024, and Number of Projects in Each



This pattern may also point to the gradual development of regional production and distribution networks, as companies establish manufacturing bases in different countries to serve domestic and neighbouring markets. At the same time, expansion into related product categories indicates the potential for companies to build broader industrial portfolios around existing capabilities and market presence.

For African countries, this creates opportunities not only to attract new investors but also to engage existing investors on further capacity expansion, local supplier development, technology transfer, and stronger regional value-chain linkages. The extent to which these opportunities translate into wider industrial benefits, however, will depend on the strength of domestic linkages and the terms under which subsequent investments are developed.

That firms which have invested once are choosing to invest again also suggests that the decision to manufacture in Africa is not only a short-term response to conditions in China, but a longer-term commitment that African governments can build on to anchor manufacturing hubs, provided that they use the leverage that repeat investment gives them to negotiate stronger local linkages, skills development and technology transfer.



A surveyor at work at a cement plant in Ethiopia. Photo: UK Department for International Development (DFID), CC BY 2.0, via Flickr.

3.5 Recommendations

The recommendations below are organised in three sections, addressed in turn to African governments, to Chinese public and private sector stakeholders, and to international partners. Each section begins by setting out what has worked so far, drawing on the projects analysed in Section 2 and the findings in Sections 3.1 to 3.4, before setting out numbered recommendations on what each group of stakeholders can do next, ahead of and through FOCAC 10.

Recommendations for African Governments

Since FOCAC 9, African governments have shown that their efforts to attract Chinese manufacturing investment can succeed: industrial zones in Egypt and Uganda have attracted clusters of factories, governments and state-owned partners in Nigeria and Zambia have secured equity stakes of between 10% and 45%, and projects such as Al Mansour Automotive's car plant in Egypt and Jingdong Steel's plant in Algeria include local component and raw material sourcing commitments of over 45% and 80% respectively. The next step is to turn these individual successes into consistent terms across projects and countries, so that more of the value created by this investment stays in African economies, and the nine recommendations below are directed to this end.

01 **Develop industrial zones as long-term platforms for linked manufacturing.**

Use Egypt's TEDA Suez and Uganda's Mbale zones as models, and prioritise complementary sub-sectors so that factories can source inputs from each other, supported by shared utilities, logistics and business services.

02 **Match national industrial strategies with infrastructure, skills and supplier capacity.**

Identify the industries that align with national development objectives, and tell investors what production capacity, technology and value addition the country seeks.

03 **Negotiate local content targets before projects proceed.**

Build on the local component ratio of over 45% at Al Mansour in Egypt and the 80% local raw material sourcing at Jingdong Steel in Algeria, and report on progress against them.

04 **Secure African equity participation when agreements are signed.**

Use the shares held by Niger State (10%), the Government of Zambia (34%) and ZCCM-IH (45%) as benchmarks, so that projects deliver a share of profits as well as jobs and taxes.

05 **Require measurable technology-transfer and skills commitments.**

Include training programmes, local technician and maintenance capacity, targets for local senior roles and joint research in domestic, regional and export-oriented projects alike, building on the Musanze-Jinhua partnership in Rwanda.

06 **Use repeat investors to negotiate further capacity, supplier development and technology transfer.**

Share information on the terms agreed with investors that operate in several countries, such as Huaxin Cement and West China Cement, and coordinate through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to avoid duplicate plants and support regional hubs.

07 **Direct incentives to industries with the largest import gaps.**

Use industrial zones to attract investment in heavy machinery, pharmaceuticals, textiles and apparel, and logistics equipment, where Section 2 shows large import gaps and few projects.

08 **Use FOCAC to secure common commitments.**

Build on the agreed market access and sanitary and phytosanitary measures by seeking commitments on technology transfer, local content and market access for processed goods.

09 **Publish and track the terms of major projects.**

Make investment values, ownership shares, jobs and local sourcing commitments public, and keep a shared record of FOCAC industrial commitments and the projects that follow them.

Recommendations for Chinese Public and Private Sector Stakeholders

Chinese firms such as Huaxin Cement, West China Cement, KEDA, LESSO and the Wonderful Group have shown, through repeat investments in several African countries, that manufacturing in Africa can be commercially viable, and several Chinese investors have already accepted African equity partners, local sourcing commitments and skills partnerships. The next step is to continue scaling up this investment, to make these practices the norm rather than the exception, and to be more transparent about the terms on which investments are made, and the nine recommendations below set out how this could be done.

01 **Continue to scale up investment in African manufacturing.**

Build on the investment that African countries have attracted since FOCAC 9 by setting a more ambitious target at FOCAC 10 for investment by Chinese companies, weighted towards manufacturing rather than extraction, so that China becomes Africa's largest source of FDI.

02 **Publish the terms of investments.**

Disclose investment values, ownership structures, jobs and local content targets when projects are announced, including for acquisitions.

03 **Offer African equity in line with the best benchmarks.**

Apply the shares secured in Nigeria and Zambia as the norm in new joint ventures and acquisitions.

04 **Set and report local sourcing targets.**

Source raw materials and inputs locally, including from other companies in the same industrial zone, as planned for limestone at the Dinson cement plant in Zimbabwe, and report on the results.

05 **Use existing African footprints to develop local suppliers and transfer technology.**

Companies such as Huaxin Cement, West China Cement, LESSO and KEDA can apply the experience, distribution networks and operating capabilities built in earlier projects to supplier development and training in each new country.

06 **Move from assembly to local component manufacturing.**

Build on the local component ratio of over 45% targeted in Egypt in automotive projects that currently rely on assembly or complete knock down operations.

07 **Pair acquisitions with commitments to expand capacity.**

Make sure that investment adds productive capacity in African countries and does not only change the ownership of existing plants.

08 **Use public finance to support industries with low investment.**

Use the China-Africa Development Fund and other Chinese public financing to support heavy machinery, medical and pharmaceutical products and logistics equipment, as it has done in the Fidson pharmaceutical and FAW South Africa projects.

09 **Design plants for regional markets as well as export.**

Serve neighbouring African markets under the AfCFTA, as Jintao Sanitary-Ware in Ghana does through its planned 70% share of exports within Africa.

Recommendations for International Partners

International partners, including development finance institutions and the non-Chinese owners of existing African plants, have long been present in African industry, and several of those plants have changed hands in the period covered by this report. The next step is for international partners to engage in African manufacturing alongside Chinese investors rather than in competition with them, and to help fill the gaps in infrastructure, finance and data on which African manufacturing depends, and the six recommendations below are directed to this end.

01 **Engage as partners in African manufacturing, not as competitors to China.**

African governments are seeking manufacturing capacity in Africa, and Chinese investors are already present in all 13 industries identified in this report. International partners can contribute most by offering their own investments, technology and finance in the industries where investment is low, such as heavy machinery, pharmaceuticals and logistics equipment.

02 **Rethink business models at existing plants to add value locally.**

Several African plants owned by non-Chinese companies have moved to Chinese owners in the period covered by this report, and existing owners could expand capacity, source locally and build export capability, so that more of the value stays in Africa, regardless of ownership structures.

03 **Finance the infrastructure that industrial zones and manufacturers depend on.**

Provide long-term and concessional finance for power, logistics networks and digital connectivity, where annual financing needs remain large. This matters because the clusters of projects in Egypt (23 projects), Uganda (14) and Kenya (12) show that manufacturers invest where industrial zones already offer reliable power, transport and connectivity, so that extending such infrastructure to more zones and countries would help to spread the investment tracked in this report more widely across the continent.

04 **Support African-owned industrial and trade data.**

Help African institutions to build project-level data on manufacturing investment, trade and local content that is owned by African countries and not held privately, so that governments can negotiate on the basis of their own data.

05 **Support African manufacturers to meet carbon-related market requirements.**

Provide technical assistance on requirements such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which matters for export-oriented producers selling to Europe. This is relevant because CBAM already applies to European imports of cement, iron and steel, aluminium and fertilisers, industries in which several of the projects tracked in this report operate, and its possible extension to textiles, which has been raised in France, would also affect the 18 textiles and apparel projects, many of which are oriented towards export markets.

06 **Partner with African research, technical and vocational institutions.**

Focus on pharmaceutical manufacturing, equipment maintenance and research and development, where African spending remains below the 1% of GDP target. This matters because medical and pharmaceuticals attracted only six of the 113 projects and about 1% of the value tracked in this report, and because the new plants in industries such as automotive and clean energy will depend on technicians and engineers trained in Africa to operate and maintain them, which partnerships with African institutions can help to supply.

NEXT STEPS

Taken together, the 113 projects tracked in this report show that, in less than two years, African countries have attracted at least US$ 19 billion of manufacturing investment from Chinese firms across 19 countries and 13 industries, as Africa's ambition to become a global manufacturing hub has met the growing need of Chinese manufacturers, facing competition at home and trade barriers elsewhere, to invest abroad. African countries are therefore well placed to turn this moment into lasting industrialisation, and FOCAC 10 offers them, acting together, the opportunity to secure the ownership, local sourcing, skills, technology transfer and access to the Chinese market that will make it so.

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