

EAST AFRICA INTELLIGENCE REPORT

REGIONAL SECURITY ASSESSMENT FOR EXPATRIATES
AND BUSINESS TRAVELERS

APRIL 2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Security conditions in East Africa are deteriorating in high-risk zones (Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, eastern DRC), while relative stability persists in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda. Business operations are viable but require active risk management and adaptive planning.

East Africa continues to experience significant political, economic, and security challenges in 2025. This report provides a comprehensive assessment of the current situation across nine countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Key regional trends include:

- Political transitions and election-related tensions across multiple countries
- Resource-driven conflicts, particularly in eastern DRC
- Growing youth activism and protests against economic hardship
- Climate change impacts exacerbating resource competition
- Shifting geopolitical alliances influencing regional stability

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

East Africa remains strategically important with active humanitarian, development, and commercial operations. Interconnected crises are driving insecurity in 2025.

Political Landscape

- **Kenya:** Approaching 2027 elections with rising political tension and youth-led protests.
- **Uganda:** Uncertainty over Museveni succession.
- **Tanzania:** October 2025 elections amid opposition suppression.
- **Rwanda:** Tensions with DRC over resource extraction.
- **Burundi:** June 2025 parliamentary elections amid democratic decline.

Regional bodies like the East African Community face strain from national rivalries and competing interests in conflict zones.

Economic Factors

- Persistent inflation and rising living costs
- High youth unemployment
- Reliance on external funding
- Resource competition and climate impacts on food production

Economic grievances are fueling unrest, especially among younger populations.

Security Dynamics

- **High Risk:** Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, eastern DRC
- **Medium Risk:** Burundi, Kenya-Somalia border
- **Lower Risk:** Most of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda (urban centers)

Conflicts increasingly involve proxy actors, particularly in the DRC. Al-Shabaab activity continues, and state control remains limited in parts of South Sudan and Somalia.

COUNTRY ASSESSMENTS



KENYA

- **Political:** Rising political pressure ahead of 2027 elections. Youth protests are reshaping discourse. Somalia relations remain complex.
- **Security:** Al-Shabaab threat in the east. Urban crime and potential for political unrest.
- **Business:** East Africa's economic hub. Infrastructure is strong, but policy instability and tax tensions persist.
- **Travel:** Avoid the Somalia border. Use caution in Nairobi and coastal zones. Monitor political developments.

UGANDA

- **Political:** Succession uncertainty under President Museveni. Repression of dissent continues.
- **Security:** Stable overall. Risks include political arrests and isolated criminal activity.
- **Business:** Investment potential in agriculture and energy. Bureaucratic challenges and political risk remain.
- **Travel:** Exercise caution in Kampala. Avoid demonstrations.



TANZANIA

- **Political:** October 2025 elections. Chadema barred. Tundu Lissu arrested. Reforms limited.
- **Security:** Generally safe. Opposition harassment and election-period tensions in Zanzibar.
- **Business:** Opportunities in tourism and resources. Policy unpredictability remains an issue.
- **Travel:** Standard precautions. Avoid political events around elections.

RWANDA

- **Political:** Kagame maintains control. Regional criticism over alleged M23 support.
- **Security:** Strong internal stability. Border tensions with DRC persist.
- **Business:** Efficient environment. Key sectors include tech and tourism.
- **Travel:** Normal precautions. Avoid DRC border areas.





BURUNDI

- **Political:** June 2025 elections amid repression. Youth militia involved in abuses.
- **Security:** Arbitrary detentions and rural violence.
- **Business:** Limited potential due to poor infrastructure and instability.
- **Travel:** Reconsider non-essential travel. Exercise extreme caution.

SOMALIA

- **Political:** Fragile federal structure. Competing foreign influences.
- **Security:** Al-Shabaab threat remains high. Widespread humanitarian needs.
- **Business:** Limited to informal sectors. Regulatory gaps and security risks dominate.
- **Travel:** Avoid travel unless absolutely necessary. Require high-level security support.



SOUTH SUDAN

- **Political:** Resource-driven conflicts dominate political landscape.
- **Security:** Widespread violence, weak state institutions, humanitarian crises.
- **Business:** Significant resources but extreme operational risk.
- **Travel:** Avoid unless essential. Robust security and evacuation plans required.

EASTERN DRC

- Eastern DRC impacts regional stability. Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya have strategic interests in the mineral-rich region.
- M23 remains active. Rwanda is accused of providing support. Diplomatic efforts continue but have yet to stabilize the situation.
- **Business:** Due diligence critical for companies sourcing minerals. Reputational and compliance risks are high.



KEY TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS

• YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Youth-led movements are increasingly impactful, especially in urban centers. Expect similar trends in Uganda, Tanzania.

Implication: Track youth engagement and social media. Anticipate flashpoints.

• CLIMATE SECURITY NEXUS

Water and land scarcity is triggering localized conflicts.

Implication: Integrate seasonal and environmental risks into planning.

• SHIFTING EXTERNAL INFLUENCE

China, Russia, Gulf states expanding presence. Western influence declining.

Implication: Monitor diplomatic changes. Align operations with evolving power dynamics.

• RESOURCE COMPETITION

DRC minerals drive competition and proxy conflicts.

Implication: Strengthen supply chain audits and reputational safeguards.

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAVELERS



SECURITY PLANNING

1. Maintain evacuation plans with clear triggers
2. Establish vetted local contacts
3. Align movements with political and seasonal factors
4. Use journey management protocols
5. Confirm accommodation security in advance



HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

1. Ensure evacuation insurance
2. Carry essential medication
3. Maintain a basic medical kit
4. Map local health facilities
5. Prioritize food and water hygiene



BUSINESS CONTINUITY

1. Build scenario-based contingency plans
2. Use flexible work setups
3. Decentralize operations in high-risk zones
4. Diversify local networks
5. Understand labor laws and duty of care



CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Stay politically neutral
2. Respect local customs
3. Use basic local language greetings
4. Be aware of ethnic dynamics
5. Avoid inflammatory regional topics

CONCLUSION

East Africa in 2025 requires vigilance and adaptability. Political uncertainty, climate shocks, and shifting alliances create layered risks. Despite this, opportunities remain for prepared operators. Success in the region hinges on dynamic risk management, localized insight, and resilient operations.

For tailored risk assessments or operational support in East Africa, contact Sicuro Group's regional advisory team led by East Africa Managing Director John Musundi jmusundi@sicurogroup.com



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This assessment is based on open-source intelligence, including input from local contacts, media reporting, international organizations, and academic sources. It is intended as a strategic overview; tactical guidance should be obtained through in-country experts and security providers.

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