



This is not a word for word transcript.

- Neil:** Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English, the programme where we discuss a topical subject and introduce you to some of the interesting vocabulary connected to that topic. I'm Neil and with me today is Jen.
- Jen:** Hi there.
- Neil:** It seems we can't go a day without hearing about the crisis in the Eurozone getting deeper and deeper. And now it appears it could have a knock on effect in Africa.
- Jen:** Yes, the continent is already suffering economically as a result of the Arab Spring.
- Neil:** But is it all doom and gloom for Africa? Possibly not... We'll hear more about a new report which has come out about the economic prospects for the continent, but of course we will start as usual with a quiz question. Are you ready for it Jen?
- Jen:** Yes I am. Hit me with it.
- Neil:** Okay. I would like to know which is the largest country in Africa? Is it:
(a) Egypt
(b) South Africa
(c) Algeria
- Jen:** Hmm, I wouldn't have chosen any of those but I'll go for (c) Algeria.
- Neil:** Okay, any particular reason?
- Jen:** I think it looks the biggest on the map, if that makes sense...
- Neil:** Okay. Have you ever been to Africa?
- Jen:** I have. I've been to Kenya, which is very lovely but not one of these options so I don't know.
- Neil:** Is it a big country?
- Jen:** It is rather big, yes.

Neil: But not as big as these, probably. We will find out the answer at the end of the programme.

Jen: Now, we were talking about the economic **outlook** for Africa.

Neil: The African Development Bank has published a report which says that as the Eurozone crisis deepens, Africa could suffer.

Jen: Listen to this first part of a report from the BBC's Martin Plaut. How does he say the African economy could be affected?

BBC correspondent Martin Plaut:

If the Arab spring hit Africa's growth last year, it could be Europe that's the problem in 2012. Europe's difficulties could reduce earnings from exports and tourism. It could also reduce international aid and the remittances from African migrant workers. Despite this, the Bank concludes that the prospect for the year ahead is generally optimistic, after what it calls a decade of impressive growth.

Jen: He said Europe's difficulties could reduce money from exports – that's the money earned from goods sold abroad. Tourism, international aid and remittances could also see a drop.

Neil: Remittance is the money earned by people working abroad and then sent back to their home country to help their families, for example.

Jen: So the continent is at risk, but the report suggested the **prospect** – or future – is generally optimistic. It isn't all **doom and gloom**!

Neil: No it's not all doom and gloom – meaning bad and depressing news. In fact the report claims that countries such as Niger are expected to flourish – or even get stronger – as its growing oil industry will allow its economy to develop.

Jen: And where else are prospects looking good?

Neil: Nigeria continues to look in good shape as its telecommunications and construction industries are also expanding.

Jen: But there are a few things which will continue to cause problems across Africa, such as unemployment and corruption. However, the report focuses on one thing in particular that is essential to Africa's future. What do you think it could be?

Neil: Listen to the next part of the report to find out.

BBC correspondent Martin Plaut:

This year's report focuses on Africa's youth. With almost 200 million people aged between 15 and 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world. And it's growing fast, with numbers doubling by 2045. But the Bank warns that without urgent action to modernise their economies, African countries risk wasting the potential offered by their youth.

Jen: So the focus of the report was...

- Neil:** Africa's youth. There are lots and lots of young people in Africa. In fact Africa has the world's youngest population.
- Jen:** Yes there are over 200 million people between the ages of 15 and 24 and the number of young people is growing very fast. Can you guess what will happen by 2045?
- Neil:** The number of young people will double, according to the report. So there will be twice as many young people – 400 million. And for that reason, the future looks positive for many African countries.
- Jen:** But there are warnings in the final part of the report. It says there is an urgent need to modernise. If not, African countries risk wasting the potential of all these young people.
- Neil:** But generally the outlook is encouraging. Many African countries are seen as **dynamic** and exciting places to make investments.
- Jen:** Let's hope the warnings are listened to and African youth can fulfil its potential.
- Neil:** OK, Jen, at the start of the programme I asked you a question about Africa. I asked you what the largest country in that continent is. Is it:
(a) Egypt
(b) South Africa
(c) Algeria
- Jen:** And I said (c) Algeria because I think it looks the biggest on the map.
- Neil:** And well that is a pretty good technique because you are absolutely correct!
- Jen:** Fantastic!
- Neil:** OK, we've come to the end of today's programme. Would you mind just reminding us of some of the words we heard today?
- Jen:** Of course, they are:
outlook
international aid
remittance
prospect
doom and gloom
dynamic
- Neil:** That's all we have time for today but do join us again for more 6 Minute English and for more help with any aspects of your English language studies go to our website BBCLearningEnglish.com. Bye for now!
- Jen:** Bye!

Vocabulary and definitions

outlook	what is expected for the future
international aid	aid given by different countries to another to help with a natural disaster or to encourage development
remittance	Money sent to someone at a distance. E.g. money earned by people working abroad and then sent back to their home country to help their families.
prospect	the possibility that something might happen in the future
doom and gloom	bad and depressing news
dynamic	where a lot happens and changes happen quite often

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